8 nominees as 2018 Business Person of the Year. PAGE 3
PSS: 2019 graduations pushed back a week. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 7

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY JANUARY 11, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

Special election in 30 days

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A special election for Precinct 3 will be held in 30 days in order to fill the vacant seat left by the untimely passing of former vice speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The 56-year-old Dela Cruz died last Sunday on Tinian causing one House seat in the incoming 21st Legislature to become vacant. His remains were flown to Saipan last Monday. The 21st Legislature starts Monday.

Article II, Section IX of the CNMI Constitution states that a special election must take place in order to fill that vacancy: "A vacancy in the Legislature shall be filled by special election if one-half or more of the term remains."

Torres said that the House must first held its inaugural session where incoming House Speaker B.J. T. Attao (R-Saipan) must inform the Executive Branch of the vacancy. "They

See ELECTION on Page 4

House OKs 11th-hour salary bill

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribiune,com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives was able to meet yesterday the required three-fourth supermajority threshold to pass the House bill that would set the salaries of incoming members of the 21st Legislature at $32,000.

The Legislature—both House of Representatives and Senate—earlier passed similar legislations,

See HOUSE on Page 4

Pet hazards: Yutu, fireworks, neglect

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The recent spate of New Year fireworks and the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu, plus instances of severe neglect or attacks, are some of the calls that animal welfare organization Saipan Cares for Animals has been getting lately.

Beth Pliscou said that their office

See PET on Page 4

NMI film wins top GIFF prize

Justin Ocampo, left, and Angelo Manese, directors of *We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas' Story,*" stand by the Best of Festival crystal trophy that their film won at the 8th Guam International Film Festival.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A made-in-the-CNMI film, *We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas's Story*, has won the Best of Festival award at the 8th Annual Guam International Film Festival.

All three films in the *We Drank Our Tears* series are now available for rent on Amazon and that three more film will be produced with GIFF co-founders and award-winning filmmakers, Kel and Don Muña, agreeing to co-produce the next three films.

» Films now on Amazon Video
» Three more films planned for 2019

Produced by Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club and Tribe Marianas, the films are adapted from *We Drank Our Tears*, a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published

See NMI on Page 4

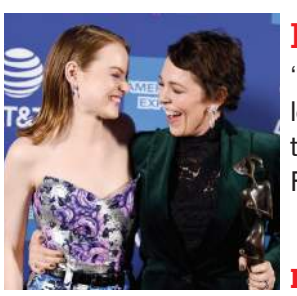
TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS
Subcontractors for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work 24/7 to complete 42 temporary classrooms for the new temporary campus of the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School near the Koblerville Elementary School.
ERWIN ENCINARES

See related story on Page 2

INSIDE

NATION
President Donald Trump walked out of his negotiating meeting with congressional leaders.
PAGE 20

ASIA
A mammoth crowd of barefoot Filipino Catholics joined a raucous procession in Manila.
PAGE 21



LIFE & STYLE
"The Favourite" is leading the race for the British Academy Film Awards.
PAGE 25

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

A new site for Hopwood?

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the moment, the Public School System is still on the fence whether to relocate the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School to a new site or not but that is a move that is being considered—among other options.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña confirmed Tuesday that PSS is looking at the possibility of relocating the school but has not made any decision yet on the subject since the system's priority is to focus on campuses that sustained "lesser damage."

Super Typhoon Yutu tore through the CNMI in late October 2018, causing extensive damage to all of Hopwood's buildings in Afetnas, nearly wiping out the school.

In the first place, Federal Emergency Management Agency inspections must first be completed before PSS can "determine what the next steps are," Muña said.

"…We need to first complete FEMA assessments at Hopwood," he added.

He wouldn't give a definitive answer, though, whether the campus would relocate or not.

As of Tuesday morning, FEMA has yet to inspect the Hopwood campus, Muña noted.

"We are prioritizing [campuses] that sustained lesser damage," he said.

Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that all of its 10 buildings on campus sustained "major damage," affecting about 70 rooms in all.

Right now, Hopwood is holding classes in the morning at the Marianas High School campus, but Muña noted that they would soon be moving to a new campus near the Koblerville Elementary School once the 42 temporary classrooms are being built.

According to Muña, subcontractors for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working 24 hours to complete the temporary structures before February.

"We are expecting to move the students of Hopwood to their new temporary campus…in the first or second week of February [2019]," he told the Board of Education's Fiscal, Personnel, and Administrative Committee during a meeting Tuesday morning.

He further reported that Liwag has already made the orders for the collateral equipment required and these are expected to arrive next month.

Saipan beach red-flagged

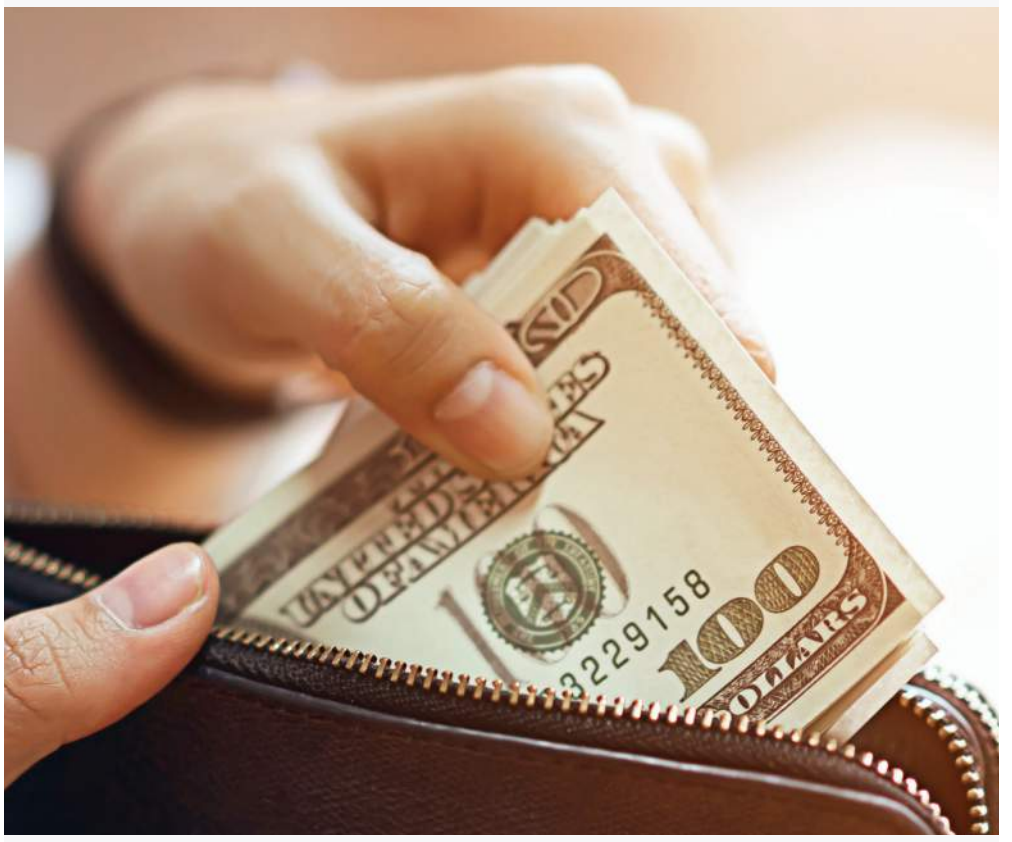
The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the beach along the Central Repair Shop and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this location were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

FHB.COM

Get $300 as your first perk with Priority Banking.SM



Get more perks

Join our premier banking plan and the more you bank with us, the more benefits you'll receive.

To learn more, visit fhb.com or any branch.

Open or upgrade to a Priority Banking account with $30,000 from another institution and receive $300.*

First Hawaiian Bank
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Member FDIC

* Priority Banking: Open or upgrade to Priority Banking with a minimum opening deposit of $30,000 drawn from another financial institution, by February 28, 2019, to receive a $300 statement credit (or $150 statement credit for $15,000 minimum opening deposit drawn from another financial institution). Accounts closed or converted out of Priority Banking within 180 days will be assessed a $75 charge. The statement credit will be completed the month following the qualifications being met. As of 1/2/19, the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for a Personal Priority Banking checking account is 0.02% for Level 2 and 0.04% for Level 3. The rates may change after the account is opened/upgraded. Limit of one statement credit per offer or account. Business and corporate accounts do not qualify for this offer. The monthly service charge is $15 for Priority Level 1, $19 for Level 2, and $22 for Level 3. Banking services and special benefits depend on the Priority Level you apply for and maintain. These benefits may be lost if account is closed or converted to another type of account. All loan-related products are subject to credit approval. Please see a Priority Banking Plan Checking Account Agreement for specific terms and conditions. These offers cannot be combined with any other discounts, offers or promotions.

HANA HEALTH MASSAGE

SERVICES OFFERED
- Oil Massage
- Foot Massage Scrub
- Foot Massage (with medicine)
- Table Shower & Body Scrub Spa
- Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain)

SPECIAL PROMO
· 90 minutes Regular Massage $25
(10:00 am - 4:00 pm only)

Locations:
- Across Kanoa Resort, besides Equitable Insurance
- MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
- San Antonio, across Pacific Islands Club

10:00AM TO 1:00AM • CALL 789-7778, 234-7773/8

8 nominees as 2018 Business Person of the Year

Members of the business sector have nominated eight individuals for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce "2018 Business Person of the Year" Award.

The winner will be named on Jan. 19 at the Chamber's annual Business Person of the Year Gala at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.

The nominees are Gloria Cavanagh of Pacific Islands Club Saipan; John Hirsh of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter; Nola Hix of Xerox Corp; Glen Hunter of The Shack; James Lee of Marpac, Inc.; Velma Palacios of IT&E; Ron Smith of Angil Design; and Janice Tenorio of IT&E.

The winner will remain secret until the official announcement at the gala on Jan. 19.

The Business Person of the Year Gala, formerly known as the Chamber's Installation Dinner, is the organization's largest social event of the year. This year's theme is "Silver Lining," in reference to the resilience of the Marianas post-Typhoon Yutu, as well as the many leaders who have stepped up to further our community's recovery.

Along with "Business Person of the Year," the event will also recognize the "2018 Saipan Young Professional" of the year as well as the Installation of the 2019 board of directors.

The 2019 board includes Marcia Calvo (Calvo's Insurance), Joe Guerrero (Joint Marketing), Perry Inos (Triple J), Mike Johnson (Deloitte & Touche), Velma Palacios (IT&E), Janel Pangelinan (Pacifica Insurance), Ty Pauling (Hyatt Regency Saipan), Alex Sablan (TanHoldings Corp.), and Shayne Villanueva (Aon Insurance).

Seats to event are limited and available for advance purchase for $100 per person. Tickets include a sit-down dinner, networking, and a night celebrating the movers and shakers of the community. Dress attire is formal. The event will be held from 6pm to 10pm.

The Chamber hopes to see all Chamber members, potential members, government officials, and all individuals in our community for this night of celebration.

Each guest will have the opportunity to participate in a silent auction that will feature a variety of prizes donated by Chamber members. Proceeds of the auction will support the future initiatives of the Chamber including workforce readiness, educational advancement, business development, and sustainable economic development.

The nominations for Business Person of the Year will be judged by the prior recipients of this award and by the four officers of the Chamber board.

Each nominee for Business Person of the Year must be a member of the Chamber and must reside on Saipan. Qualifying criteria includes active personal participation in the Chamber's committees, events, programs, and meetings; active community involvement and contributions; and being widely recognized for his/her area of expertise.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization To order tickets, email administrator@saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe for more information. ***(PR)***

THE BEST GAMING CLUB IN SAIPAN
WELCOME
TO Fabulous
SAIPAN VEGAS
GOLF RESORT & SLOT CLUB
JANUARY
PLAYER PROMOTION
Spin to Win
with a chance to
win $1,000
on our daily player promo draws.
With over $11,000 to be won
only at the Best Gaming Club in Saipan.
Come play today and you could be the next big winner!

ARC AQUA RESORT CLUB
DAILY LUNCH BUFFET
Indulge in our Daily Themed Lunch Buffet in Costa Terrace Restaurant!
MONDAY - SATURDAY 1100 - 1400
*$19.00 /ADULT *$9.00 /CHILD *LOCAL RESIDENT RATES
Monday CHINESE & KOREAN FUSION featuring our Live Samgyeopsal Station
Tuesday ASIAN CUISINE featuring our Pho Station
Wednesday INTERNATIONAL CUISINE featuring our Live Pizza & Pasta Station
Thursday LOCAL CHAMOLINIAN CUISINE featuring our Live Barbeque Station
Friday JAPANESE & HAWAIIAN FUSION featuring our Live Tempura Station
Saturday INTERNATIONAL CUISINE featuring our Live Mexican Taco Station
CALL (670) 322-1234 FOR RESERVATIONS

Scheduled power interruption on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, from 10:30am to 2:30pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace three wooden primary power poles with concrete poles along Beach Road near Star Water. The scheduled power interruption is a continuation of CUC's ongoing Super Typhoon Yutu restoration efforts.

Areas to be affected: Beach Road from the Horiguchi building to Angaha St., Seyur St., Taibwo St., Alus St., Llat St., Mootyt St, Gualo Rai Road, Pupulo Dr., Aar Loop, Dotse PI., Chaoti Pl., Alalak Dr., Pumpkin St. (between former Mayor's Office building to Hakubutan) and the Microl intersection. All services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

No water wells will be affected, except for the S-10, S-11, S-12 wastewater lift stations. That covers customers from Puerto Rico village to the Microl intersection.

The Microl traffic lights will be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, travelers are urged to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor the CUC Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

NMI

From Page 1

by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation.

In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. A total of 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles, and the films chronicle some of their stories.

Rafael Mafnas' story was directed by seniors, Angelo Manese and Justin Ocampo.

Best of Festival at GIFF

Rafael Mafnas' story is the third film that the school's Theatre Club had entered into the GIFF in the past two years, which included the first film, *We Drank Our Tears: Francisco Babauta's Story* and the next film, *We Drank Our Tears: Benjamin Abadilla's Story*.

All three films were nominated for Best Made in Marianas awards at the GIFF, but the Best of Festival honor is the first time any of the films won an award.

The Best of Festival Award is reserved to honor the film and filmmaker that have exhibited the most impactful effort of engagement and interactivity with the film festival and its patrons, from its festival screening to beyond the theatre walls.

For the award deliberation, the festival directors consider all official selections and take into account multiple facets of significant filmmaker-to-audience engagement, filmmaker-to-festival engagement, story content or subject matter that is not only relative to GIFF audiences, but also resonates beyond its screening at the festival and, finally, overall festival participation of the filmmaker.

The school learned about the award from Kel Muña, co-founder and program director for the GIFF. In his award letter, Muña wrote, "We are honored to acknowledge *We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas' Story* as the newest addition to a list of significant, impactful films and filmmakers that have earned the award."

"The GIFF Best of Festival Award is one that we as festival organizers hold in special regard," Muña added. "Throughout the history of GIFF, all recipients of this award have risen above expectation by utilizing the medium of motion picture paired with the many components of the festival to engage audiences and our community."

Manese and Ocampo were both stunned to learn that their directorial debut garnered such a prestigious award.

"I'm shocked," said Manese. "I was already grateful for our film being nominated, but I never expected it to win something."

Ocampo was equally floored. "As someone who aspires to be a filmmaker, it was amazing to get the film festival experience so close to home and to be recognized on that scale."

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who is also a producer for the films, is very proud of his students. "This proves that our students have the talent, the skill, and the passion to tell compelling stories about our islands."

He also acknowledged that the award speaks to the resilience of the people of the Marianas, especially in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu. "If it's one thing we've learned by telling these stories, it is that, with hope and faith and determination, we can survive any tragedy, whether they be world wars or super typhoons. The honor of receiving the Best of Festival award reinforces that underlying message."

For his work with all three films, Deleon Guerrero was also recognized with a 2018 Governor's Humanities Award for the Preservation of CNMI History.

Available on Amazon

In another milestone for all three films, they are now available for rent on Amazon.

"This may be one of the first times ever that filmmakers from our island have had their content featured on Amazon, a platform with millions of subscribers and a track record for featuring great films," said Deleon Guerrero.

It took months of work with Amazon to ensure that the films met the guidelines of Amazon and fulfilled the specifications for digital content featured on streaming service. This included being approved by Amazon to offer content online, uploading high definition versions of the films, providing customized graphics for the videos' landing pages, and designing subtitles for each film.

"Now, everyone, especially those who could not make it to the films' screenings, can see the great work of these students and learn more about this important part of our history," Deleon Guerrero said. "This is also an important way to enrich the ongoing narrative about the Pacific battles of the war, which most films tell from the perspectives of soldiers, but almost never from the perspectives indigenous islanders."

Proceeds from rental revenue will be used to fund future films in the series.

Three more films

Building on the success of the first three films, the school would be working with the Muña brothers to produce three more films in the series.

In discussing the films, Don Muña said, "The maturity in the visual perspective and the historical knowledge that the students from Mount Carmel School have shared through their work is proof we can preserve, restore, and perpetuate our culture by bridging the generational gap through visual communications."

Muña went so far as to say, "The film series is sheer genius and what I would define as a digital cultural immersion."

The three more installments in the series will coincide with this year's commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian.

Deleon Guerrero noted how the stories are coming full circle. "For the 60th anniversary, the *We Drank Our Tears* book was published to chronicle the experience of civilians in the war. Fifteen years later, we are keeping those stories alive by bringing them to life in film."

The three new films are slated for premieres this summer. More information about local screenings will be announced as film production gets underway.

Local production

The films' cast and crew included a wide range of talent from across the island. All three films were produced by Deleon Guerrero, 2005 AlumKnight Rob Travilla and his company Tribe Marianas, Frankie Eliptico and the Northern Marianas College, and the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.

Rafael Mafnas' story features Derrick Atalig as Rafael, Matt Moran as his friend Juan, Seok Jun Run as Takeda, a Japanese soldier, Eric Kiser as Mike, an American soldier, and Rodrigo Castro as the older Rafael.

Benjamin Abadilla's story features Dylan Santos as Benjamin, Aysia Adele Duenas Santos as his mother, Martha, Kalea Borja as his aunt, Mariana, and Jeremiah Diaz as his father, Ramon. The cast also includes Mark Toves as the older Benjamin, Joaquin C. Duenas as the older Ramon, and Joyce C. Santos as an older version of Benjamin's sister.

Francisco Babauta's story features Javon Gersonde as Francisco, Kelvin Cepeda as Francisco's father, Keona Camacho as Francisco's mother, and Keisuke "Kei" Yoshida as Hirokazu, a Japanese solder that interacts with Francisco and his family. The cast also includes Michitaka "Michi" Yoshida and Randy Johnson as Japanese soldiers and Elphidia "Peding" Cepeda Sanchez and Derek Gersonde as older versions of their respective characters in the film.

Rafael Mafnas' story and Benjamin Abadilla's story shared a crew, with Quincy Chinen as the unit production manager, Kelvin Cepeda as the first assistance director, Reica Ramirez as script supervisor, Victoria Deleon Guerrero and Joanie Paraiso as production designers, and Alvin Palacios as lead cameraman. The crew also included Aldwin Batusin and Ivy Leong assisting with production design, Kyle Bautista operating the boom microphone, and Maverick Irang serving as the crew grip.

The crew for Francisco Babauta's story included Zeno Deleon Guerrero as production manager, Markel Toves as first assistant director, Aysia Duenas Santos as assistant production manager, Raynard Travilla as director of photography, and Victoria Deleon Guerrero as production designer. Miguel Dandan, Angelo Manese, and Joshua Sablan operated the cameras, Willam Deleon Guerrero operated the boom microphone, and Velma Deleon Guerrero and Michelle Masga assist in production design. ***(PR)***

HOUSE

From Page 1

House bills 20-194 and 20-195, but both were vetoed by the Governor's Office.

In vetoing H.B. 20-195, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the CNMI Office of the Attorney General had advised him that the bill failed to pass with the required 15 vote-supermajority or three-fourth of the Legislature that is needed under Article II, Section 7 (d) of the CNMI Constitution that that would affect the government's spending authority enacted between the election and the second Monday of January.

This latest attempt to set lawmakers' salaries is House Bill 20-197.

PET

From Page 1

has been getting about five calls a day regarding anything between a family's inability to provide care for their pet following Yutu, to dogs that have gotten lost due to the fireworks of the recent New Year celebrations that caused them to be afraid.

"A lot of reports of missing animals and people coming to us begging for us to take in their animals because they have to leave the island or their shelter does not allow pets," Pliscou said.

According to her, the organization had been receiving at least five calls a day since Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018. She noted that a family who had to relocate from their home in Chalan Kanoa to the Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility rode their bikes from the shelter to their homes just to feed their pet cat.

"It has been really tough for people," she said, adding that she also heard of a resident who was allowed to stay in a hotel but did not allow her to bring her pets with her.

"…They gave her a room there because she lost her house but she couldn't take her three dogs, so she decided to stay in her house with no roof instead of staying in the hotel," she said.

Her organization has also seen a rise in reports of lost dogs during the New Year celebration period.

She noted that a dog, no matter how well trained, could panic from all the fireworks.

"Even the tamest dogs that are right by your side could just bolt and they're gone," she said. "A lot of reports of missing animals [have been recently reported]."

The organization, she noted, posts on its social media page pictures and some information on some of the lost pets in hopes of finding them.

Pliscou said some tips she could provide to the public is, if needed, to tie their pets for safety.

"I never recommend tying a dog, but tie [them]. Of course, [provide them] with food and water. It's just dangerous out here," she said, referring to areas on Saipan that do not have power yet, increasing the likelihood of accidents.

ELECTION

From Page 1

[House] will be giving me the certification as to the vacancy slot of [Rep.] Dela Cruz."

"I will be certifying that [declaration of vacancy] with the Attorney General and we will then coordinate with the [Commonwealth Election Commission]. A special election will be held in 30 days to fill that vacancy."

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol earlier said the special election is open to anybody, which means other people who are qualified to run for the Precinct 3 seat can join the race and not just the candidates who lost in the general election last November.

She said the six candidates who lost in the race for Precinct 3 seats last Nov. 13 would need to submit once more their petitions for candidacy with the CEC.

Igitol said the CEC board will review the petitions for candidacy for approval.

She said the absentee voters for Precinct 3 would also need to vote again.

PSS: 2019 graduations pushed back a week; RHI status quo

High school graduation on Rota remain as is but the rest of public schools in the CNMI will have their high school graduations pushed back by a week.

This was learned during the Public School System's Board of Education committee meeting last Tuesday, with many high schools forced to play catch up in the wake of the widespread devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña reported to the board's Committee on Fiscal, Personnel, and Administration that the graduation for the Dr. Rita H. Inos High School on Rota is on status quo, while that of high schools and middle schools on Tinian and Saipan would be delayed a week to allow the classes to catch up.

In a follow-up interview Tuesday, Muña noted that no seniors withdrew from PSS and that they continue to expect about 900 students to graduate in early to mid-June 2019.

Soon after Super Typhoon Yutu swept through the CNMI, PSS announced that it is ready to process students who wish to withdraw from PSS.

"To my knowledge, most of the withdrawals are at the elementary level," Muña said. "We are expecting pretty much the same number of students [to graduate]."

He assured that PSS exerted all efforts to make sure that the tertiary education of graduating seniors would not be delayed. "We are only pushing [some graduations] back a week," he added.

The new schedules for graduation start as early as June 7 for the Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School's promotion and graduation date. Tinian High School's promotion and graduation dates follow on June 10, 2019.

Dandan Middle School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, and the Marianas High School would be having their graduation and promotion ceremonies on June 11, 2019. Kagman High School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, and the Tanapag Middle School would be conducting their promotion and graduation ceremonies on June 12, 2019, while the Hopwood Middle School, Da'ok Academy, and the Saipan Southern High School would be having their promotion and graduations ceremonies on June 13, 2019.

Ultimately, the new graduation schedule was passed at the committee level and now heads to the board for discussion. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Celebrate
with a Galaxy S8 or S8+
$50/mo.
10GB
Start your year with a Samsung Galaxy. Choose the Galaxy S8 for $49 or the Galaxy S8+ for $79 when you sign up for a $50 plan or more.
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E
store.ite.net ite_cnmi ite.cnmi
*Terms and conditions apply. Must sign a 12 or 24 month plan on a $50 plan to avail of promotional pricing. Offer available until January 31, 2019. Subject to credit check. See stores for details or go to www.ite.net.

Army engineers help install temporary roofs

Soldiers and airmen from Task Force Engineer remove damaged roofing at a home on Saipan last Jan. 7.
U.S. ARMY/SPC. GEORDAN TYQUIENGCO

Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, and commander, Joint Task Force West, visits the warehouse distribution site and speaks to Task Group Engineer service members about their role in Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts last Jan. 8.
U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS WYNN HOKE

Airmen from Task Force Engineer remove damaged roofing at a home on Saipan last Jan. 7.
U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS WYNN HOKE

ASAN, Guam—More than 140 active-duty service members arrived on Saipan on Jan. 5-6, to install temporary roofs and continue to provide Department of Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and work with the CNMI's civil and local officials in restoring much-needed shelter to those affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

The service members are part of Task Group Engineer, a newly formed joint team of Army, Navy and Air Force engineers led by the Army's 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, based in Hawaii.

"As CNMI continues to recover from Super Typhoon Yutu, the military will also continue to provide assistance to FEMA in support of the CNMI recovery efforts," said Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas and commander of Joint Task Force West. "The engineers—composed of Army, Air Force and Navy service members—will work diligently to provide much-needed temporary roofing to residents of Saipan and Tinian."

Military service members from the DoD have accomplished many of their FEMA-assigned immediate response and recovery tasks, and their current focus is the installation of temporary roofs, of which more than 200 have already been completed by Seabees and airmen from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 and the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron.

To meet this goal, these additional active-duty engineers will work to restore much-needed shelter to those affected by Super Typhoon Yutu, which struck the CNMI on Oct. 24-25.

"We are excited to reinforce the temporary roofing efforts led by CNMI and FEMA," said Lt. Col. Reyn Mann, 84th Engineer Battalion and Task Group Engineer commander. "We know we are stronger as a task group, and our soldiers, Seabees, and airmen are here to work hard for the people of Tinian and Saipan, who have shown remarkable courage and resilience in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu."

The DoD mission is expected to continue until the critical needs are met or FEMA officials have implemented the appropriate mix of civil and contracted solutions to allow them to continue to lead federal government relief and recovery efforts without DoD support. ***(PR)***

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
Lowest Price in Saipan!!!
Furniture, Bedding Articles and LED!
Financing is available now!
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS AND MANY MORE!
ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA
ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER, & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

Serving our islands for over 25 years!
WORLD TOUR & TRAVEL
World Tour & Travel
Your Professional Travel Agency
Agent for most airlines of United, Delta, Asiana, Korean, PAL
Help for mileage booking and online reservations.
WORLD WIDE INSURANCE
World Wide Insurance
Meets your Insurance Needs for Auto, Worker's Comp. Public Liability & Fire.
CHINESE VISA
World Express Service
Specializes in Chinese Visa, Public Notary Service
Consulate Certifying service in Chinese L.A. Consulate
Tel.: 233-3600/3700/3605 • Fax: 233-3900
2nd Floor, M2M Bldg., Garapan, between Bank of Guam and Bank of Saipan

I ❤ MASSAGE
Special Local Promotion
$18.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
$25.00 Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes
Business Hours:
10:00AM-1:00AM • Monday-Sunday
VISIT 10 TIMES - GET 1 FREE
For more information, please Call 234-9229 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe, 1st Floor, Joeten Commercial Bldg. next to Zoom Chicken

GRANDVRIO RESORT SAIPAN
*Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm *Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm *Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm
RESTAURANT TROPICANA

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Breakfast Buffet $19 Sunday Brunch Reg. $32 Ad/$16 Ch (Local: $28 Ad/$14 Ch)	Breakfast Buffet $19 Seafood Night Reg. $40 Ad/$20 Ch (Local: $30 Ad/$15 Ch)	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 Buffet Lunch Reg. $22 Ad/$11 Ch (Local: $18 Ad/$9 Ch) Seafood Night Reg. $40 Ad/$20 Ch (Local: $30 Ad/$15 Ch)	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 Buffet Lunch Reg. $22 Ad/$11 Ch (Local: $18 Ad/$9 Ch) Seafood Night Reg. $40 Ad/$20 Ch (Local: $30 Ad/$15 Ch)	Breakfast Buffet $19 Seafood Night Reg. $40 Ad/$20 Ch (Local: $30 Ad/$15 Ch)

Adult: 12 yrs and up | Child: 6-11 yrs | Infant: 5 yrs and under • EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

RESTAURANT DOLPHIN
(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan)
Opening time:
Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm
Last Order: 1:30pm
Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm
Last Order : 8:30pm
Starlight BBQ
Business Hours: 6pm-9pm
Menu: "All you can eat & drink"
Beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.
Reg. $43 / Child $21 (Local $32 / Child $16)
AIR
COFFEE LOUNGE
Business Hours:
10:00am-6:00pm
POOL SIDE BAR
Business Hours: 1pm-10pm
Last Order: 9:30pm
Happy Hour: 4pm - 7pm
For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

JOETEN

2 DAY NEW YEAR SALE

SINCE 1949

GREAT SAVINGS THROUGHOUT THE STORE! Sat. & Sun., January 12 & 13, 2019

US PORK SPARERIBS 15# $16.99

CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20# $10.99

FARMER JOHN HALF HAM $1.69 /lb.

BUTTERBALL TURKEY $1.69 /lb.

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 25# $14.99

KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.6 LTR $3.99

LIN SUGAR 2kg $1.69

ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY DRINKING WATER 24/500ml $4.99

MEADOW FRESH MILK 1 LTR $1.49

ANY POWER BUTANE GAS 4pk $2.99

SEIKO WATCHES

SHOES & SANDALS 20% OFF

25% OFF

MENS TEE SHIRTS AND POLO SHIRTS
MENS SHORTS
LADIES DRESSES, BLOUSES AND PANTS
LADIES BRAS
HANDBAGS AND WALLETS

Samsonite Luggages

25% OFF

Sunglasses & Eyeglasses

25% OFF

Christmas Candies

50% OFF

Selected Bedsheets

30-40 % OFF

Jovy's Banana Chips 100g

$1.39

Philippine Choc Mango 12pcs

$5.49

Happy Cotton 80grams

99¢

Basic Essentials 2pc Colander Set

$14.99

Presto Pressure Cooker 6qrt

$52.99

Proctor Silex Non Stick Iron

$17.99

USB 6" Metal Mini Fan

$9.99

Assorted Foam Bathrug

$22.99

Royalty Rug 5' x 8'

$48.99

Assorted Disney Wallclock

$11.99

MARKET/PRODUCE

PHILADELPHIA PLAIN CRM CHEESE 8z

$3.29

U.S. KIWI FRUIT (S)

$1.99

EED MARGARINE QUARTERS 80% 16z

$1.29

U.S. GRAPES RED SEEDLESS /LB

$1.99

FFL EZEKIEL WF/GF BRW RICE BD24Z

$5.89

U.S. ONION YELLOW

59¢

FFL EZEKIEL WF/GF WH RICE BD 24Z

$5.89

U.S. TOMATO ROMA

$1.89

CHICKEN LIVER CUP 15z

99¢

U.S. EGGS MEDIUM LOOSE 2.5dz

$3.79

Clearance Sale

50-70% OFF

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 - Tel. 234-6446/48 Fax. 234-5876

Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

We accept major credit cards

We welcome Food Stamps
We reserve the right to limit quantities

LOTTERY WINNER

Jin Guang Zhi plays both the Megadraw and the Pacific Gold Lottery games every week. On the morning of Dec. 12, 2017, he had a lucky feeling, so he stopped by the Ming Yang Supermarket that morning on his way to work and bought a Pacific Gold Lottery ticket. The next day, Zhi went back to the store to check if he had won something. And that's when the cashier handed him a prize claim form and told him that he had won a big amount, and that he had to contact the Northern Marianas Sports Association office to claim his winnings. Sure enough, when he did that, he was told that he had just won $5,000. And just right before Christmas and New Year! Here, photo shows NMSA's Mike White and Anicia Lisua holding up the ceremonial check for Zhi's lottery win.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GALLERIA
SAIPAN
DFS

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR DFS SAIPAN & GUAM FAMILY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT IN 2018 AND DFS WISHES YOU ALL HEALTH AND PROSPERITY IN 2019

Beach Road, Garapan,
Saipan MP 96950
+1 670 233 6602

TGALLERIA.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Provision of Food and Beverage at Saipan T Galleria by DFS

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

DFS Saipan L.P. and T Galleria by DFS ("DFS"), is inviting initial discussions and proposals from qualified and experienced organizations to lease/s for 4 ground-floor spaces ranging approximately 900 sq. ft. to 4,000 sq. ft. for the operation of a food and beverage (F&B) facility in the 'south-end' of DFS Saipan. This prime location faces Beach Road with the specific intention to enhance the overall customer experience DFS.

DFS intends to launch a F&B experience with a Western, Local, Asian, Pizza, or Sushi 'bar-type' offering and is subsequently interested in engaging operating in and around any of these formats and in any sizes of lease space(s) detailed above.

Initial conversations have started and DFS encourages interested parties to contact Milan.Rabold@dfs.com

With more than 58 years of expertise in the travel retail industry, DFS is recognized in Saipan and around the world as the leading luxury shopping destination for the sophisticated global traveller. We enjoy this position attained by listening to our clientele, adapting to changes in our customer base, and continually responding with innovative concepts. Additional information about DFS can be found at https://www.dfs.com/en/about-dfs

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL AND PROJECT TIMELINE

1. All initial requests for information, on site meetings and/or further information in response to this RFP are due no later than 5:00 pm January 31, 2019.
2. DFS will thereafter evaluate all interest and coordinate with applicate enquiries as to next steps
3. DFS will attempt to select preferred proposers by February 28, 2019, at the latest. DFS does not, however, commit to accept any proposal and reserves the right to reject all of them or terminate this process. Once the evaluation process is completed, DFS will commence negotiations. DFS may choose to negotiate simultaneously with more than one proposer. DFS's objective is to complete contract negotiations by March 31, 2019, at the latest.
4. Project Timeline: Project initiation and planning phase must be completed by April 30, 2019. Project planning phase will determine the timeline and/or schedule for the remaining phases of the project.
5. The successful proposer will be expected to begin work on the project within 30 days of signing of the contract. The opening date will be agreed with DFS in the final negotiation of the contract and project plan.
6. The successful proposer will be expected to begin work on the project within 30 days of the agreed project timeline.

CHC outpatient pharmacy marks its 1st anniversary

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center celebrated last Tuesday the first anniversary of the establishment of its outpatient pharmacy at the CHC building, making the occasion by giving out freebies and free medical services.

The giveaways included sugar-free cake, a small reusable bag, boxes of anti-allergy medicine, a first-aid kit, a pill caddy; and some brochures.

The free medical services included health screenings and education and flu vaccinations.

The pharmacy also unveiled Tuesday a new pathway leading to the pharmacy as well as a new signage right next to the main entrance.

"The best part of providing pharmacy on an outpatient basis is being able to interact directly with patients, and becoming part of their solution to feeling better," said Rodylyn Bacani, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Pharmacy Department manager, in a statement. "The outpatient pharmacy has become another doorway for patients to get the help they need. It is an honor to work for them."

In a separate interview, Bacani said the pharmacy is looking at extending telepharmacy services to Rota and Tinian. The main pharmacist would be stationed on Saipan while pharmacy technicians on Rota and Tinian would prepare the medicines for issuance to patients. "We will have the same system on Rota and Tinian," she said. "The patients there can have access to our pharmaceutical services through a video conference."

According to Bacani, a first formal meeting was held last Monday. She expects to launch the telepharmacy system for Rota and Tinian sometime this year.

Lawyer: Clients who filed racketeering lawsuit have failed to pay his law firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mark Scoggins wants to withdraw as lawyer for a businessman and his former company after they allegedly failed to pay his law office for the racketeering lawsuit his law firm filed on their behalf.

Scoggins said his clients—Il Hwan Kim and KSA Corp.—have not responded despite his efforts to get in touch with them daily for several months.

Scoggins said some of these communications have been in the Korean language and that they have no doubt that the communication was sent to a source to which Kim and KSA have access.

He said Kim and KSA did have one phone conversation with him, in which promises of payment and also further communication on a specific time frame were agreed.

Scoggins said Kim and KSA did not follow through despite his clear instruction, through an interpreter.

"Because of these failures, the lawyers of this office have been unable to obtain necessary information to properly represent KSA and Mr. Kim in this matter," he said.

This, Scoggins said, coupled with the fact that racketeering cases are difficult and intensive to begin with, renders the representation "unreasonably difficult."

The lawyer said that Kim and KSA have not paid his office for some months now, despite repeated attempts to communicate with them.

"KSA and Mr. Kim have made promises, but have not kept their promises," he added.

Scoggins cited the Model Rules of Professional Responsibility for his bid to withdraw from the case.

Last March, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Kim's and KSA's claims against Joann P. Hensley, the remaining defendants in the lawsuit.

Manglona dismissed with prejudice the claims against Hensley at the request of Kim and KSA.

Dismiss with prejudice means Kim and KSA can no longer re-file the claims against Hensley.

The other defendants in the case were Hun Jin An, and Jeong Eun Tack. Both have been dismissed from the case on technical grounds.

Kim and KSA alleged in their lawsuit that the defendants conspired to steal millions of dollars from him for his hotel and casino project on Saipan.

Aside from those three defendants, Kim and KSA Corp. also sued former House speaker Oscar M. Babauta, Department of Public Lands employee Ramon S. Salas, and 10 unnamed co-defendants pursuant to Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act and other causes of action.

In 2017, the court dismissed with prejudice the claims against Babauta.

In January 2018, Manglona also dismissed the claims against Salas.

Tugboat searches for crewmembers who abandoned burning ship

HONOLULU (AP)—A tugboat is searching for crew members who weren't rescued when the ship they were on caught fire while transporting automobiles from Japan to Hawaii.

The *Sincerity Ace* had 21 crewmembers on board when the fire started last week. The crewmembers abandoned the burning vessel, which stretches 650 feet (198 meters).

Ships in the area rescued 16. Four were listed as unresponsive in the water. The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its search for one missing crewmember.

Japanese shipping company Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd. owns the Panamanian-flagged vessel.

Company spokesman Darrell Wilson says tugboat crewmembers who arrived Monday are trying to find the remaining crewmembers before towing the ship.

He says vessels in the area are asked to look out for bodies.

Wilson doesn't know if the ship is still burning.

MVA officials submit courtesy resignations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As is standard procedure each time a new administration is sworn in, officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority, led by MVA board chair Marian Aldan- Pierce and managing director Christopher Concepcion, have resigned from their posts as a matter of courtesy.

Concepcion said Tuesday that, as far as he knows, Aldan-Pierce, directors Cinta Kaipat, Jerry Tan, and Nick Nishikawa have already turned in their courtesy letters of resignation He is not sure if the other directors have already resigned on their own but they are all aware of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request.

Concepcion disclosed that he himself submitted his courtesy letter of resignation addressed to Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov.-elect Arnold Palacios and the MVA board of directors.

"I know I technically report to the MVA board but, in deference to the incoming administration, I submitted my courtesy resignation to allow them to determine if they feel I am the best person to lead the MVA in the next four years," he said.

It is now up to Torres if he's going to accept their courtesy resignations.

"We will honor his decision regardless," Concepcion said.

Concepcion has been the MVA managing director since April 2016.

Under Aldan-Pierce's and Concepcion's leadership, the CNMI's tourism industry has improved in multiple ways, resulting in many arrival records broken, awards the MVA/CNMI received, programs the MVA started and signature events launched.

EXTENDED THROUGH JANUARY
$3,000 OFF ALL CIVIC MODELS
Happy Honda Days
SALES EVENT
CIVIC Sedan
2018 BEST BUY AWARD Winner
2018 AWARD WINNER Small Car
starting at $22,995 or $153* per paycheck
2019 MODELS IN STOCK NOW
RIDGELINE PILOT ODYSSEY
2018 YEAR-END CLEARANCE

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
ACCORD SPORT	JA127198	STILL NIGHT	$3,000
CIVIC TOURING	JU219725	RALLYE RED	$4,000
HRV EX 2WD	JM702620	LUNAR SILVER	$3,000
PILOT EX 2WD	JB004061	LUNAR SILVER	$4,000
HRV EX 2WD	HM[SOLD]	[SOLD] BLACK	$4,000

Ford	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
TRANSIT 350 MR	JKB19772	OXFORD WHITE	$5,000
TRANSIT 350 LR	JKA83076	OXFORD WHITE	$4,000
TRANSIT 350 HD	JKA[SOLD]	[SOLD]VER	$5,000
TRANSIT 150 XL LR	JKA83059	OXFORD WHITE	$4,000
EXPLORER LTD 4WD	JGC88943	PLAT DUNE TRICO	$5,000

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
SENTRA S	JY250557	FRESH POWDER	$3,000
ROGUE S 4WD	JW[SOLD]	[SOLD] WHITE	$3,500
TITAN PRO4X 4WD	HN555149	GUN METALLIC	$7,000
MURANO PLATINUM	HN[SOLD]	[SOLD]UE	$5,000
PATHFINDER SV 4WD	HC673748	GUN METALLIC	$5,000

SERVING THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS 40 YEARS Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU 1978 - 2018
Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM - 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
*See www.automobiles.honda.com for full disclaimer information
*2018 CIVIC LX AT Retail price $22,995 with 20% down. 3% APR at 60 payments of $330.53 or $152.56 per paycheck at 26 pay periods per year on approved credit. Total deferred $19,832.40.

The 2019 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands INAUGURATION

Ralph Anthony DeLeon Guerrero Torres
Governor

Arnold Indalecio Palacios
Lieutenant Governor

Saturday, January 12 · 3:00PM
The Inaugural Concert
Marianas Business Plaza
Susupe

Sunday, January 13 · 3:00PM
The Inaugural Red Mass
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral
Chalan Kanoa

Monday, January 14 · 12:00PM
The Inaugural Ceremony
Northern Mariana Islands Soccer
Training Center · Koblerville

Immediately after the Ceremony
The Inaugural Luncheon
Northern Mariana Islands Soccer
Training Center · Koblerville

Senate kicks cannabis law amendment to next Legislature

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Senate has thumbed down a House bill that would have addressed some of the concerns raised by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in the law that legalized the use of cannabis in the CNMI, preferring to let the incoming members of the Legislature to address the issue.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said Tuesday there are provisions in House Bill 20-196 that are potentially unconstitutional and has statutory contradictions.

"There's a provision in [H.B. 20-196] that affects regulation to make part of [the cannabis law, Public Law 20-66] go away. It doesn't work like that; that's unconstitutional. Regulation cannot trump statute and statute cannot trump Constitution. That's very basic," said Palacios.

"Secondly, the compensation package for the commission [members]. One is to pay them a salary, plus honorarium for board meetings. You can't have both. So, we were going to try to make those amendments," added Palacios.

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) introduced H.B. 20-196. It seeks to amend certain sections of P.L. 20-66 that was signed into law by Torres in September last year.

Palacios said that the Senate could have made the amendments but time is no longer on their side, "knowing full well that, in consulting with House members and the speaker, if we make amendments, that bill will not make it out of the House in time before they *sine die*."

"They [House] are not going to be able to accept those amendments in time to pass it. So, it has to be taken back, fixed, and let the next Legislature address it. Next week, somebody could pick it up and make a go at it. We are leaving this legislation on the table."

The 21st Legislature will be inaugurated on Jan. 14, Monday.

Senate floor leader Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) later withdrew his motion for the passage of H.B. 20-196.

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) opposes giving additional compensation to commission members and he believes the annual compensation of $65,000 per annum is enough. The cannabis law would also give an honorarium of $60 each per member for whole-day board meetings and $30 each for half-day meetings.

"Any bill that originates from the House and gets to the Senate, it is our due diligence to make sure that it is in order before we vote. If we put this out for a vote with some deficiencies, I guarantee that many of our people are not going to care about reading this bill," said Quitugua.

"Because [people] rely on us to know what we're doing here, we should give them a good initiative. It is our due diligence to look at this legislation, if we feel that it is not going to fulfill its intent to benefit the people."

Zoning Board chairman Blanco submits courtesy resignation

CNMI Zoning Board chair Diego Blanco has already submitted his courtesy resignation letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Blanco said he did not have to, according to legal advice, but he went ahead and resigned.

He is unsure if the other board members also submitted their courtesy resignations.

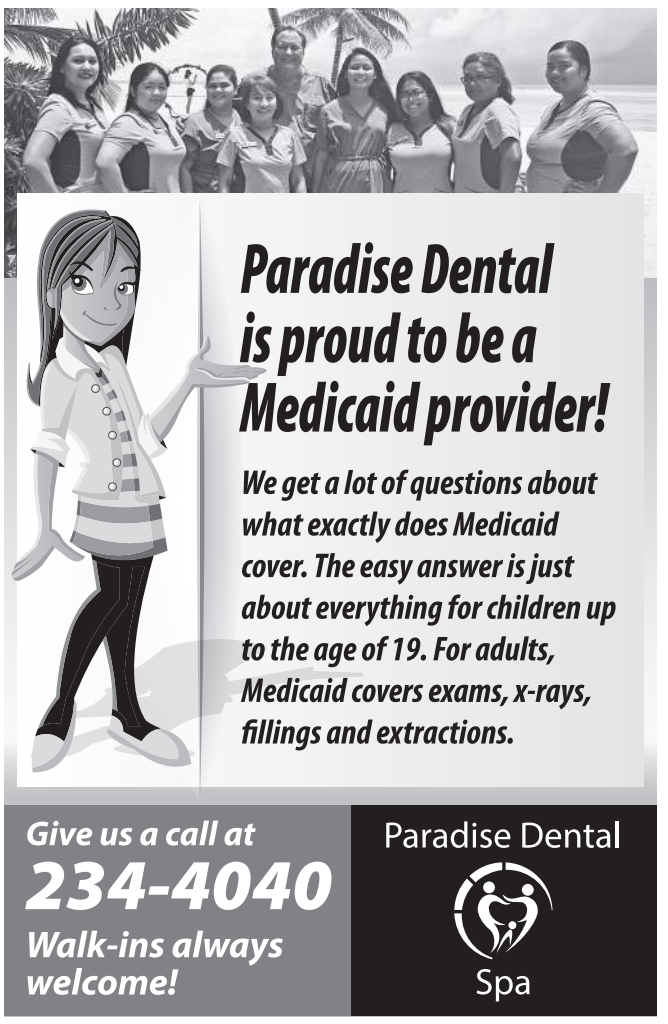
The other Zoning Board members are Joe Ayuyu Jr., Patrick Reyes, and Mariano Taitano.

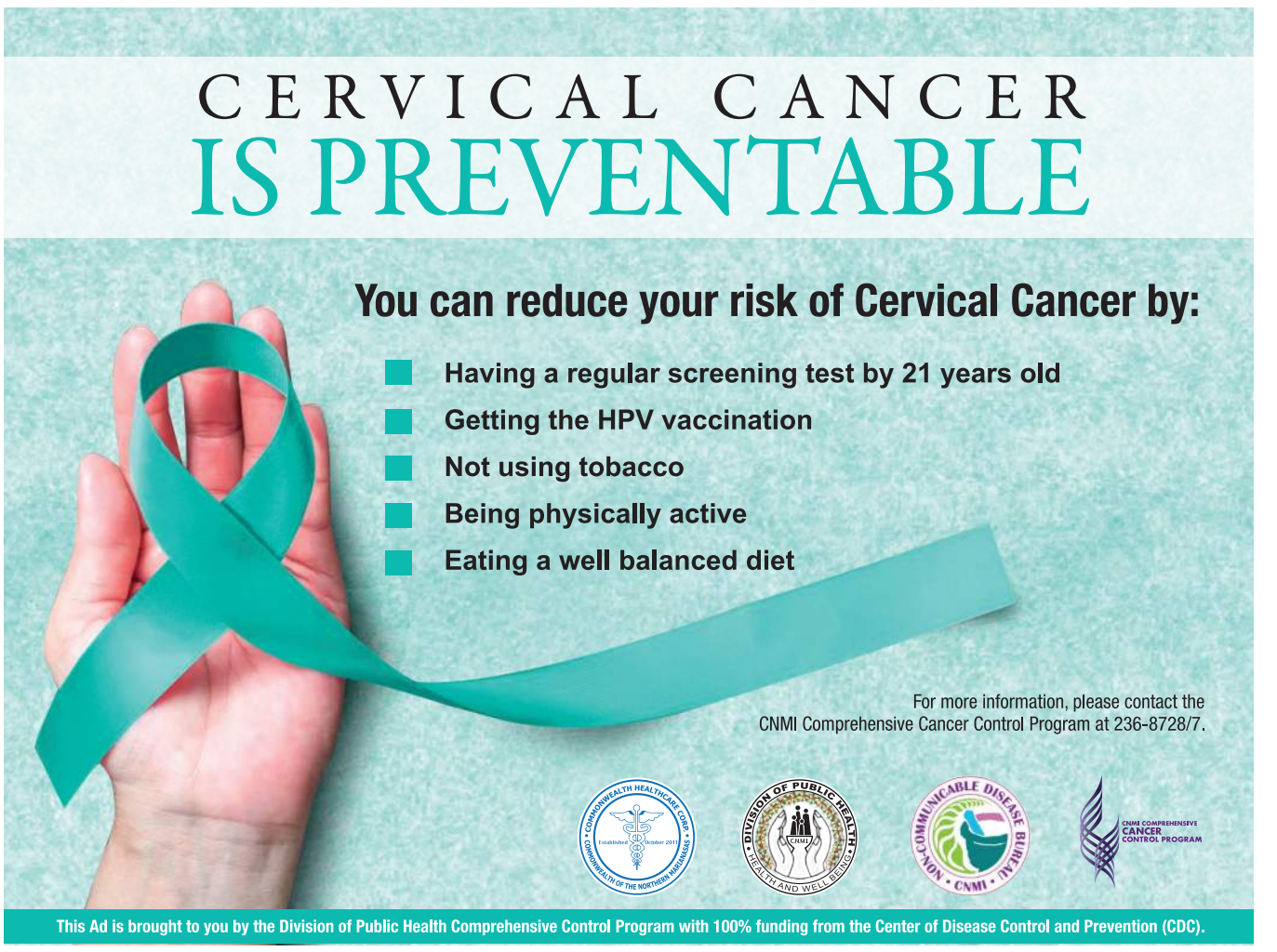
George Fleming has not been sworn in yet to the board.

Zoning Board administrator Therese Ogumoro is not required to submit her resignation.

Last Nov. 18, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres asked all Cabinet members, board members and commission members to submit their courtesy resignations.

Torres and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) will be sworn in as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, this Monday, Jan. 14. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***


Paradise Dental is proud to be a Medicaid provider!
We get a lot of questions about what exactly does Medicaid cover. The easy answer is just about everything for children up to the age of 19. For adults, Medicaid covers exams, x-rays, fillings and extractions.
Give us a call at
234-4040
Walk-ins always welcome!
Paradise Dental
Spa


CERVICAL CANCER
IS PREVENTABLE
You can reduce your risk of Cervical Cancer by:
Having a regular screening test by 21 years old
Getting the HPV vaccination
Not using tobacco
Being physically active
Eating a well balanced diet
For more information, please contact the CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728/7.
This Ad is brought to you by the Division of Public Health Comprehensive Control Program with 100% funding from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 7

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Abolish death penalty once and for all

Although the Washington Supreme Court ruled in October that Washington's use of the death penalty was unconstitutional, the court's action did not completely eliminate capital punishment in the state.

The Legislature still needs to vote this year to repeal.

Washington's death penalty was racially based, arbitrary and lacks fundamental fairness, the justices ruled and opponents have been saying for years. Research quoted in the Supreme Court decision found that, in this state, "black defendants were four and a half times more likely to be sentenced to death than similarly situated white defendants."

The Supreme Court left open the possibility that the Legislature could fix the death penalty. No current or future Legislature should be permitted to do so.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson is working with two lawmakers, Sen. Reuven Carlyle, D-Seattle, and Rep. Tina Orwall, D-Des Moines, to close the door on the death penalty once and for all. Lawmakers have tried and failed for years to pass similar legislation.

The death penalty is not a deterrent to crime and is unnecessary for public safety. It is not worth the cost to taxpayers or the emotional energy required from victims' families.

Since Washington reinstated the death penalty in 1981, 33 people were sentenced to die, although some had their sentences changed on appeal, and five have been executed. Gov. Jay Inslee declared a moratorium on executions in 2014. The Supreme Court's unanimous ruling converted the sentences for the state's remaining eight death-row inmates to life in prison without release.

In the past 15 years, seven states have ended their death penalties and Washington, Colorado and Oregon adopted moratoriums. Only a few states are still executing prisoners, including Texas, Florida, Georgia and Oklahoma, but nationally death sentences have decreased dramatically.

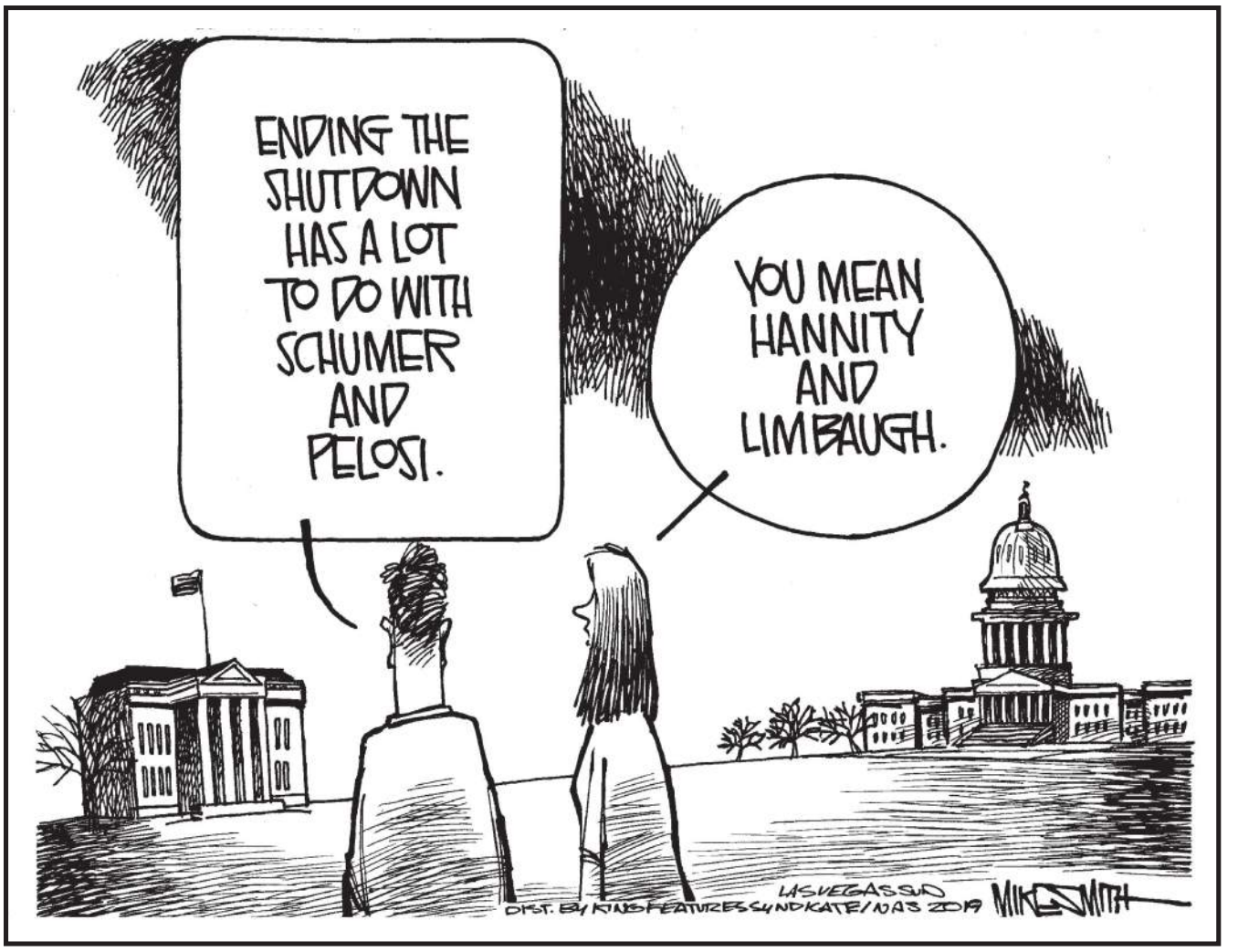
In Washington, one of the best arguments for eliminating the death penalty is the disproportionate way it has been used, both geographically and racially.

"The death penalty is unequally applied—sometimes by where the crime took place, or the county of residence, or the available budgetary resources at any given point in time, or the race of the defendant," Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst wrote in the lead opinion.

Prosecutors seek the death penalty only in the most populous counties, because those are the municipalities that can afford the cost of trial and death-penalty appeals. Seeking the death penalty adds at least $1 million to the cost of prosecution—money that could be better used toward other law and justice work.

This is the year to eliminate the death penalty in Washington state.

(c)2019 *The Seattle Times*


ENDING THE SHUTDOWN HAS A LOT TO DO WITH SCHUMER AND PELOSI.
YOU MEAN HANNITY AND LIMBAUGH.
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS 2019
MIKE SMITH

Looking for a university? Four suggestions

By WALTER V. WENDLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walter V. Wendler is president of West Texas A&M University. His reflections are available at www.walterwendler.com.

As the new year begins, scores of students and their families will make choices about where to study next fall. Affordability, location and degree offerings should be serious considerations. No one should ever say, "It is worth it no matter the cost." That's propaganda. There are global considerations beyond how much, where and what that every student and family should be aware of. Four follow.

First: Only attend a university that has a clear long-range plan—a cogent vision for the future. It should be readily available to anyone for the asking. Faculty, staff, students, university leaders, alumni and elected and appointed leaders should have been engaged in its development. Carefully consider the plan. Work to understand the impact of the plan on the value of the degree sought. The degree is a stock certificate and as institutional quality rises or falls, the value of the degree follows. More than an emblem or certificate of attendance, degrees are a demonstration of confidence and organizational faith. If an institution does not relentlessly endeavor to produce long-term growth in degree value, your investment is a poor one. ***Do not even make the down payment.***

Second: A university not committed to its geographic locale is not worth attending. Whether the institution is public or private, it must serve local populations first. This is true for Columbia University in New York. No matter how international it becomes, if Columbia forgets New Yorkers it will not serve anyone well. When brought to life, local service powered by a servant's heart provides evidence of the soul of the institution beyond popular commercial rankings such as U.S. News and World Report. One might say this is easy for an institution in New York, but impossible for a rural or regional university like West Texas A&M University. This view is naïve, shortsighted, and ultimately self-defeating. It diminishes "stock value." If an institution tries to step over locale, rather than work with and through geographic needs and values, it fails regardless of location.

Strengthening locale through outreach is part of every campus mission. Online institutions provide insight here. The best programs are always both online and on campus. Liberty University and Southern New Hampshire University are examples. Traditional universities coupled with extensive online programs provide benefit to the host community. Purdue's purchase of Kaplan will prove that dramatically.

Further, the impact of locally-focused research, scholarly and creative agendas are economic seed corn for the place that serves the university, and for the university that serves the place. Campuses create regional benefit even for people who don't attend. Effective universities yield both a private good—skills, insights and ideas and a public good—stronger economies. Universities that do not improve a place denigrate degree value for graduates. ***Invest elsewhere.***

Third: Universities not engaged in partnerships with other educational institutions will never reach full potential. Interaction with regional high schools creates campus character. Likewise, community colleges and technical schools, different though they may be, should be appreciated for the benefits and value provided. Lastly, other educational institutions that may be similar in mission are partners in social, cultural and economic advancement. Working in isolation, whether by design or default, is "half-a-loaf." Denial of the worth of dual credit and the interdependence of community colleges and senior institutions of all types diminishes appreciation of a connected world and, eventually, the degree awarded. ***Let narrow-minded people enroll at narrow-minded institutions.***

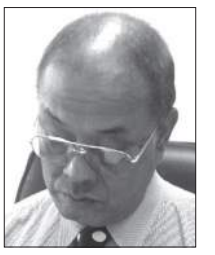
Fourth: Campuses that are monolithic in student populations shortchange both institution and student. The concept of diversity and inclusion is vital, but is frequently too narrowly viewed. Powerful universities are open to all individuals. Attending solely to identity group constituencies and the accompanying politics while calling it diverse is myopic.

Universities should be available and open to all aspiring, able and motivated students. Working adults, 16-year-old high school graduates with associate degrees, transfer students, stop-out students whose life or family circumstances caused interruption in study, people of varied ethnicities, races, religious beliefs, political persuasions and the ensuing gumbo of complexities and nuances of the human condition are necessary but not sufficient. Campuses shrouded by ivy-covered brick facades catering solely to 18-year-old high school graduates are blinded by a hidebound self-image. ***If you only encounter people like you on a campus visit, run, don't walk, to another place.***

These four observations will define, in part, successful universities in the future. The value of a degree from such campuses will increase. Seek them out.

Burning our bridge

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

For over four decades we worked in partnership with friends from Japan build the local economy. It was their lifetime wealth that they invested here over the years. It's a relationship worthy of strengthening at all cost.

But in our moronic adolescency, we insulted them with boastful arrogance as if we could afford being on our own. Doesn't the NMI have any mature sense of gratitude and understanding of our historic relations with friends from Japan?

Nippon investors simply shut their investments and headed home. How sad the retarded realization that we've burned our most reliable bridge to economic opportunities. It's gone—a costly juvenile demeanor.

The loss of $7 billion in Nippon investments here in recent years wasn't triggered by limited land terms. It's the display of adolescent arrogance against well-meaning investors.

Nippon investors walked with their luggage to airplanes. It terminated and dismantled JAL services, sold Hotel Nikko and other major investments and headed home. Have we recovered the $7 billion loss from other daydream investments? Or are we still dumbfounded by immaturity while reeling from a huge decrease in revenues? Despicable the price of arrogance and ignorance!

We've had a history with a small apparel industry that faded into history when China entered the World Trade Organization. The federal government revoked local authority over immigration and minimum wage laws that further exacerbated economic contraction. Hoped for some appreciable opening for economic growth and development when I happened upon an observation by an economist.

Said he, "[The] CNMI's small size precludes the development of a self-sufficient economy capable of providing its people with a decent standard of living. Throughout most of its history, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands subsisted on fish, crops, and not much more. Today, the population is not large enough to produce the wide array of goods and services that are the characteristic of a modern economy." Is there hope in our economic future other than subsistence farming and fishing?

Expectations: The elected elite is tasked to reassess and realign priorities for 2019. Hope there could be changes in favor of depth of perception, clarity, gratitude, conviction and commitment.

For now, an economic plan is in order that addresses the 15,000 employees stuck in poverty income or wages and salaries. Imagine the hardship families endure as a result of insufficient wages and salaries. It turns hardship into the daily order of business from dawn to dusk.

Poverty income is between $15K and $42K, its strength dependent upon number of people per household. If I may reiterate, some 15,000 employees are relegated to this income level and have yearned for better days ahead. Is there a plan to address this incongruity?

Your inadequacies placed them there!

Equality: The idea of providing relief to the poorer sector of the indigenous population is fine. But when it involves "equal protection" issues it's best you take a step back and reassess such intention.

Isn't there a standard on income threshold where one seeks help under various health programs, federal and local? Why would we deviate from it? We must learn dealing with equal protection for all U.S. citizens and bid *adios* to the political protection under the agreement that isn't likely to stand muster before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ours has been rendered polite niceties for purposes of keeping the peace. Is it premised on equal protection for all citizens?

Culture: There's the occasional warning about cultural loss. Interesting that none of the paragons of tradition has ever defined Chamorro culture, losses and its maintenance. It seems a baseless warning as if the sky is falling.

It appears a new angle to talk about the issue ad infinitum and without foundation. Is it new speech material? Nice try!

Isn't culture a way of life? What's its foundation? What has changed in significant ways? How do you shield it from change? What do you recommend as realistic paradigms to guard against any change and loss?

We preach one thing but grandly ignore the very issue we use daily at home in the substitution of the local language with English. Did you get that, pal?

Language is culture! Herein lies the real challenge! Has this issue been formally addressed so the left hand knows what the right hand is doing? Or are we addressing it on a superficial level just to deliver ill-conceived speeches? Isn't this the equivalence of grand hypocrisy?

Premature babies at higher risk for disabilities

By AMBER ALBERTS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

One in 10 babies are born premature every year in the United States. According to Stacey Stewart, president of March of Dimes, a charity focused on ending birth defects, "preterm birth is the No. 1 cause of death among babies and a leading cause of lifelong disabilities." The severity of their disabilities all depends on how premature they were and what illnesses or complications they experienced after birth. It can cause long-term health problems that may not even show up until adulthood. Some health issues common among premature babies include intellectual and developmental disabilities such as ADHD, anxiety, trouble learning, speech impairments, blindness, deafness, breathing problems, brain bleeds and infections, and cerebral palsy. It is important to talk to your health care provider early on if you fear your child may have a disability due to pre-term birth. The Affordable Care Act helps make sure that children with special medical needs have the health insurance they need to pay for services and treatment throughout their lives. In the CNMI, for children from birth to age 3, programs including Early Intervention Services with the Child Development Assistance Center can help your baby's early development needs. Once they enter school age you can talk with your school about receiving Special Education Services if needed.

I am far too familiar with this process as both my twin sister and I were born premature.

My twin sister and I were born three months premature at 29 weeks and weighed just 2lbs 9oz and 2lbs 10oz. My mother gave birth to us at 33 years old and also had gestational diabetes and was carrying twins. This made her pregnancy high-risk, which ultimately resulted in us being born prematurely. Our parents were told that we'd have many challenges throughout our lives. The doctors told them we could have many complications such as cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness, brain bleeds, developmental delay, learning disabilities, digestion issues, and lung problems from being born so early. We spent two months in the ICU at Magee Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA and were both on ventilators for at least 5-6 weeks. We saw many doctors and specialists after that. Once we arrived home our development was based on our due date. We saw a developmental specialist, our primary physician as well as an eye doctor who had a research program that studies the eyes of premature babies. We were also held back a year in Kindergarten, keeping us in the school year that we would have been in had we been born on time. My sister and I also saw a speech therapist and got put into dance classes to help with our mobility and muscular development. It is because of the early steps my parents took to provide us with the doctors and specialists we needed that we were able to overcome these challenges. Both my sister and I have no disabilities or challenges even though we were told by many doctors we would. Aside from many scars from chest tubes we grew up leading very normal, happy lives.

For more information about where you can get help for a child born with a disability, please visit https://www.marchofdimes.org/complications/long-term-health-effects-of-premature-birth.aspx or contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or online at www.nmpasi.org

Amber Alberts is a client advocate for the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

Tweet Policy Farts Jumps and Starts

What president has ever tweeted so much
accomplished so little with babyish squealing
all his pettiness and narcissism revealing
incompetence ineptitude totally out of touch
totally devoid of reflection about anything
except desire to be totalitarian king of bling
what president has ever left the nation reeling
at the utter nonsense of his pronouncements
strange logic or lack thereof out of his mouth
seeming with little or no thought or foresight
some folks calling him a bottomless Pinocchio
over seven thousand lies in his first two years
sitting in an oval office he has little respect for
piling up shame before he goes out the door.

Tragic Tweeting Tales

"Notre histoire noble et tragique comme le masque d'un tyran."
—Guillaume Apollinaire, 1880-1918

His reign pathetic, tragic
as any would be tyrant
reality TV unreal magic
indifferent to facts, details
abhorrent of common sense
Three generals trying to find
ways to help him steer clear
of boxing himself in now gone
more obstinance, self absorption
where he constantly returns

Tragic tweeting tales
dying in cyberspace.

Fools, Farce and Fraud: Russians Applaud

Well D.C. lawyers and legislators hemmed and hawed
about what was fast becoming a classic French farce
45's narcissism refused to let his conscience be gnawed
his longer Tweet sheets becoming impossible to parse
Special Counsel and staff over grand jury papers pawed
releasing little to the Congressional and WH reporter pool
as 45 remained obstinate and stubborn as an old mule
political pundits play pick your Presidential abuse poison
sexual campaign election sins & Russian ruble money bins
political, criminal, and money fraud, where did it all begin
we should laud the diligence of Special Counsel Mueller
as the 45th POTUS keeps getting angrier and crueler
do pardons for all the Trumpian political criminals lie ahead
from the Crimean Black Sea to the Kremlin
Russians applaud.

'I Have a Gut...': Some Ifs and Bigly Buts

" I'm not happy with the Fed. They're making a mistake because

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

I have a gut and my gut tells me more sometimes than anybody else's brain can ever tell me."
—Donald J. Trump, 45th POTUS

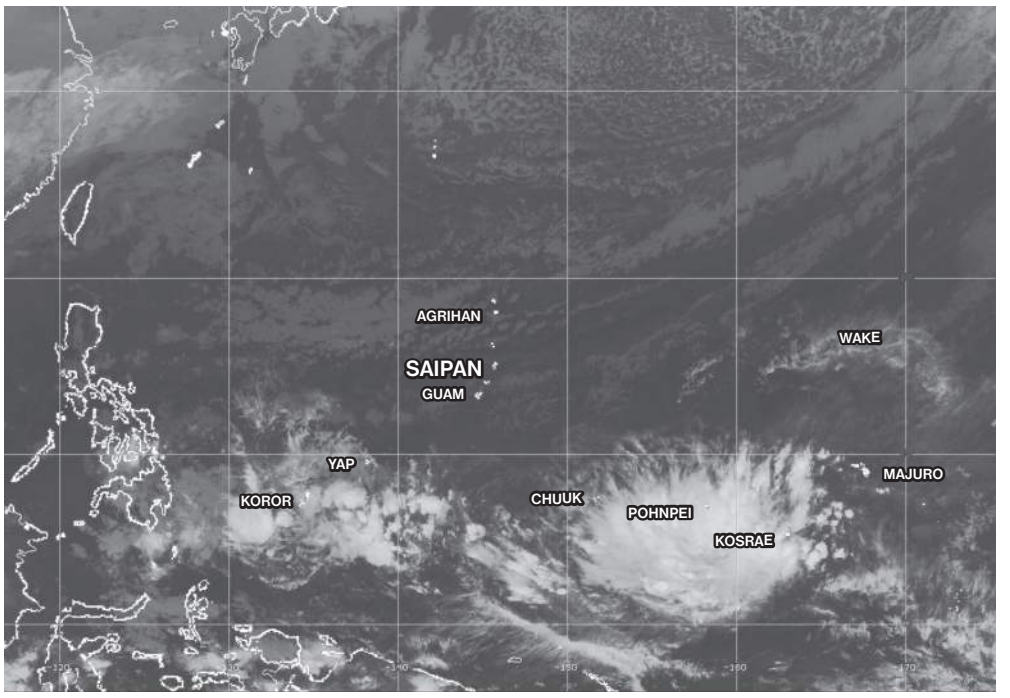
Yes the nation is well aware of Donald Trump's guts
it seems he believes deeply about his own instincts
somewhere way down in the vicinity of his denial buts
we realize his self centered thinking just plain stinks
his compulsive Tweeting diarhhea runs out of his mouth
a die hard golf ball goofball whose gut tells him all from
Russian trouble in Syria and Crimea to Mexico in the South
all precede the penultimate Trumpty Dumpty downfall
his know it all gut rushes in where his brain rarely treads
a peanut brained believer in most every conspiracy theory
filled up with nonsense tangled in his tweeting threads
"Incurious." says Sully Sullenberger, to make a query
so the POTUS says, "I'm not happy with the Fed."
The world is not happy with what is inside 45's head.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
89° 77°	89° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:48 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest models have slowed the arrival of scattered showers a little, as the remnants of TD 01W are not in a hurry, and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are now forecast for Monday night through Wednesday. Otherwise, the forecast is little changed, with breezy conditions today, but then winds should fall off slightly for the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	45° / 19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 68°
London	Cloudy	46° / 39°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Miami	Cloudy	78° / 54°
New York	Partly Cloudy	37° / 24°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°
Paris	Showers	45° / 39°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	52° / 39°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	52° / 30°
Salem	Sunny	51° / 30°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	43° / 25°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	54° / 34°
Washington, DC	Sunny	38° / 28°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:48 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.02
11:45 AM	LOW TIDE	1.84
5:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.08
10:19 PM	LOW TIDE	1.56

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:14 AM	10:15 PM	-
Saturday	10:52 AM	11:02 PM	-
Sunday	11:29 AM	11:50 PM	-
Monday	12:07 AM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:39 AM	12:47 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U86486:10am		8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183 via GUM	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA117/193 GUM-ROR	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:

TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Swearing-in Ceremony
MAYOR-ELECT DAVID MUNDO APATANG

Presentation
David Mundo Apatang

Presentation of Colors
Saipan Southern High School JROTC Color Guard

United States & CNMI Anthems
Sophia Geisinger

Invocation
Most Reverend Bishop Ryan Jimenez, DD

Welcoming Remarks
Mistress of Ceremony

Oath of Office
Honorable John A. Manglona
Associate Justice, CNMI Supreme Court

Remarks
Mayor David Mundo Apatang

Oath of Office
15th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council

Announcement

Benediction
Most Reverend Bishop Ryan Jimenez, DD

Retrieval of Colors
Saipan Southern High School JROTC Color Guard

The Committee on Inauguration for David Mundo Apatang, Mayor of Saipan-Elect is very pleased to extend this invitation to the residents of Saipan to the Swearing-In Ceremony of David Mundo Apatang, Mayor of Saipan-Elect, to be held on January 14, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. in the Seaside Hall, Kanoa Resort Hotel.

Inaugural ceremonies will start at 8:30 a.m. and conclude no later than 9:30 a.m.

The Swearing-In Ceremony
can be viewed live via live stream
by logging in to
https://www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa/

Please join David Mundo Apatang, Mayor of Saipan-Elect, on this very special occasion.

/s/ Committee on Inauguration
for David Mundo Apatang,
Mayor of Saipan-Elect

TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

Customers First TRIPLE J

STORE HOURS: WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 11AM–8PM • SATURDAY 9AM–8PM • SUNDAY 11AM–6PM • AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

AT&T 3 HANDSET CORDLESS ANSWERING SYSTEM CL82315
$119.95

$179.95 CRAFTSMAN 320 PC MECHANIC TOOL SET

GPX BOOM BOX CASSETTE CD/RADIO BCA 206S
$69.95

$139.95 LG BP350 BLUE-RAY PLAYER WIFI

4SGM - PREMIUM ARTIFICIAL 9.84 FT GRASS
$29.95

HAWAIIAN COLLECTION FUTON, FULL SIZE
$159.95

$25.95 ELICO 16" ELECTRO-PLATED METAL CLOCK

EH 30 LITER STAINLESS STEEL TRASH CAN
$45.95

$27.95 EH BLACK TRK TREE FLOOR LAMP

$25.95 EXPANDABLE BOARDING LUGGAGE

$6.95 GARDEN SPADE SHOVEL

$74.95 EH BELMONT 4 -DRAWER CHEST

ELICO - CRACKLED LONG PANEL MIRROR 11.5" x 45.5"
$16.95

KENMORE 5,000 BTU WINDOW A/C
$199.95

PRIMO WATER DISPENSER
$199.95

DAHDOUL - EMIRATES 5'3" x 7'2" RUG
$45.95

DAHDOUL 27" x 54" STANDARD TOWEL
$4.95

KENMORE 3.1 CUFT COMPACT REFRIGERATOR 99042
$199.95

WESLO 3.0 CARDIO STRIDE MANUAL TREADMILL
$159.95

$199.95 COSTCO LIFT & STROLL TRAVEL SYSTEM SAFARI

DHP FOLDING GUEST BED
$149.95

MEGAMASTER 22.5 CHARCOAL KETTLE GRILL
$159.95

DIRT DEVIL DIRECT POWER UPRIGHT VACUUM
$95.95

IGLOO WHEELIE COOL 38QT 53 CANS COOLER
$49.95

EH CAYMAN 5PC HIGH TOP DINING SET
$299.95

$49.95 BEBEMIO - SUNKIDS UMBRELLA STROLLER

HOMZ IRONING BOARD
$32.95

ELICO - RELIGIOUS ART 16.5" x 21"
$16.95

$59.95 CRYSTAL - BETTER CHEF 1100W VARI-SPEED BLENDER

$15.95 COLEMAN 9QT 9 CANS EXCURSION COOLER

CAR MATS 4PC 43.5 x 32cm / 44.5 x 62.5 cm
$6.95

COSCO DELUXE VINYL FOLDING CHAIRS BLACK
$26.95

DAHDOUL - BAMBOO STYLE BOUTIQUE PILLOW 20" x 28"
$11.95

LINON DAHLIA 5PC HIGH DINING SET
$319.95

SPORTSPOWER GROVEPARK
$189.95

Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Scan QR code to LIKE our Facebook page and get the latest deals and products!

For more info, please call: 322-0430

Pacific Express · American Express · MasterCard · VISA · JCB · DISCOVER NETWORK

Two men in alleged burglary plead not guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two men facing charges of conspiracy, burglary, theft, and criminal mischief have pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Demson Sachuo and Amado Kereman, both 18, through their lawyers, pleaded not guilty last Monday to four charges filed against them after an alleged burglary in Kagman 3.

Sachuo and Kereman were arraigned last Monday in front of Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

He scheduled both Sachuo and Kereman for a status conference on Feb. 11 at 9am.

According to court information, police responded to a burglary in progress on Nov. 27, 2018, at 2:28am in Kagman 3, behind the CYC store.

Police identified the suspects as Kereman and Sachuo.

Kereman refused to give a statement to the police, but Sachuo allegedly admitted that it was his idea to break into a neighbor's house.

During the preliminary hearing, it was learned that Kereman allegedly conspired with Sachuo to burglarize the neighboring home while Okaruru and Norita stayed back.

The two other suspects, however, allegedly warned Kereman and Sachuo when flashing lights were seen from a distance.

Sachuo told police that he and Kereman took a backpack, a small lamp, and batteries from the house.

It was learned during the preliminary hearing that other stolen items included perfume, watches, and domino chips that have yet to be recovered.

The stolen items came out to a sum of $1,258, excluding repairs to the burglarized home.

Police charged the two with conspiracy, burglary, and theft and criminal mischief.

A $20,000 cash bail was imposed on both defendants.

Traffic citations, cases are moved anew

The CNMI Office of the Clerk of Court, Superior Court would like to notify individuals with traffic citations, cases that were initially scheduled for:

■ Nov. 1, 2018, and were rescheduled to Dec. 6, 2018, as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu are again rescheduled to Jan. 15, 2019, at 9am to be heard at the Marianas Business Plaza, Courtroom 212 (second floor). Accordingly, all payment deadlines are extended up until Jan. 14, 2019.

■ Nov. 8, 2018, and were rescheduled to Dec. 13, 2018, as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu are again rescheduled to Jan. 22, 2019, at 9am to be heard at the Marianas Business Plaza, Courtroom 212 (second floor). Accordingly, all payment deadlines are extended up until Jan. 21, 2019.

If you have any questions regarding your citation number or your hearing date, contact the Office of the Clerk of Court at 236-9703, 783-8417, or 783-8522. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Power outage in Garapan, Beach Road areas yesterday

There was an emergency power interruption for customers along the Bank of Guam Garapan branch to the Microl intersection in Chalan Laulau Beach Road yesterday due to a damaged power pole caused by Super Typhoon Yutu. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen expected to complete the repair by 11:30am yesterday. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Humanities awards next week

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting the 21st Governor's Humanities Awards at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant on Thursday, Jan. 24, starting at 11am. ***(PR)***

Kagman schools to have PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019 at 5:30pm at the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents and guardians to attend this meeting.

Please call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Volunteers sought for Head Start Council

The Head Start/Early Head Start Program is seeking volunteers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to serve as community representatives for the Head Start Policy Council.

The requirements include community representatives who are familiar with resources and services for low-income children and families; cannot be an employee or immediate relative of an employee for the CNMI Public School System; and may not have already served five terms on the council.

The deadline is Jan. 25, 2019. Interested community members should email a brief letter of interest and resume to hsehs@cnmipss.org. The election of community representatives will be held during the January meeting of the Head Start Policy Council. For more information, contact Jolene Sablan at jolene.sablan@cnmipss.org or call 323-7446/664-3761. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for its fabrication services. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 4:30 pm, January 23, 2019**. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Note: This ad was published ONLINE on January 10th, 2019

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ/DCRM-038

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"CNMI CORAL NURSERY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIROMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MR. DAVID BENEVENTE AT dbenavente@dcrm.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JANUARY 28, 2019.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone) for RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Corporation is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district.
A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, January 23, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Note: This ad was published ONLINE on January 10th, 2019

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Top Sheng Investment, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Top Sheng Investment, LLC is proposing to operate a Powered Paragliding business. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 080 A 01 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 4:30 pm, January 23, 2019**. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Note: This ad was published ONLINE on January 10th, 2019

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DPW-041

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 25, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) CLASS "F" 4WD, FOUR-FULL DOORS, PICK-UP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Business

Federal shutdown delays some state road, bridge contracts

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Uncertainty over federal funding for transportation projects amid a partial government shutdown is forcing some states to delay contracts for new road and bridge work while others are preparing for that possibility.

Transportation officials in Oklahoma this week announced plans to delay bids on 45 highway projects worth about $137 million.

"This will affect only new projects that we haven't (bid) yet," Oklahoma Department of Transportation spokeswoman Terri Angier said. "Unless they reach a resolution that includes the budget and authorizes us more money to put toward the projects, we can't add new projects."

The agency is delaying bids on 26 projects totaling about $101 million in January and another 19 projects in February worth about $35.6 million, she said.

Highway and bridge projects already underway are not affected by the federal shutdown. The disruption in federal funding flowing to the states instead affects future projects for which departments were going to award bids in the coming weeks. That will put the bidding process on hold, especially in states that receive a large share of their highway dollars from the federal government.

Delays can push back those construction projects by months or even into next year.

Officials in some states say they are starting to see the effects of the shutdown. Federal agencies that often are involved in approving transportation projects, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, are closed and unable to act.

"The longer these delays continue, the more likely it becomes that projects will not meet their planned (contracting) dates," said South Dakota Department of Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist.

States that receive a greater percentage of road and bridge funding from the federal government should be particularly concerned, said Tony Dorsey with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in Washington, D.C.

"It's just simple math," Dorsey said. "If you have a big chunk of your funding coming from the feds and you've got a partial government shutdown affecting that funding, you might be less inclined to move forward with these major projects."

The association says some states, including Montana, New Mexico and Rhode Island, receive more than 85 percent of their transportation funding from federal sources, although transportation officials in those states said the federal shutdown has not yet delayed any projects.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission is expected to approve bids for 24 projects costing about $60 million at a meeting Thursday. The state agency, which has a $700 million cash balance, is pressing forward with planned projects despite the uncertainty over federal funding.

"We maintain a cash balance that allows us to handle these types of situations, and some states do not," Missouri transportation department spokesman Bob Brendel said.

Even if an agreement is reached soon to end the shutdown, the delays in Oklahoma could be exacerbated by environmental and weather concerns. That can create a domino effect that leads to projects getting postponed for much longer, said Angier, the transportation department spokeswoman.

As an example, she said work on state bridges can't start once nesting season begins for cliff swallows, a protected species that frequently makes its home on the underside of bridges. That season runs from March to September.

She pointed to planned construction on a bridge over Interstate 35 south of Oklahoma City that is several decades old.

"If we don't let this project, it's not just delaying it for a few months," Angier said. "It could be a year before we could get back to that project."

She said the agency also times the (contracting) of projects so that much of the work, particularly asphalt resurfacing, can be done in the spring and summer when the weather is better.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 24, 2019
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 10/04/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2018-3838: Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for its fabrication services. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

2. Rezone Application #2018-4299: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is requesting to rezone Lot No. 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district for warehousing and fabrication of materials for construction projects. This lot is located along Attilong Lane, east of Saipan Health Clinic and Green Meadows School.

3. Conditional Use Application #2018-4302: Top Sheng Investment, LLC is proposing to operate a Powered Paragliding business. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 080 A 01 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
1. Update on the ATV, UTV, and Motorcycle Regulation

E. New Business
1. Text & Map Amendments to 2013 Saipan Zoning Law – for Board Adoption
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Note: This ad was published ONLINE on January 10th, 2019

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and wife divorcing after 25 years

SEATTLE (AP)—Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos and his wife, MacKenzie, are divorcing, ending a 25-year marriage that played a role in the creation of an e-commerce company that made Bezos one of the world's wealthiest people.

The decision to divorce comes after a trial separation, according to a statement posted Wednesday on Jeff Bezos' Twitter account. He and his wife both signed the announcement, which ended with a vow to remain "cherished friends."

"If we had known we would separate after 25 years, we would do it all again," the couple said.

Left unanswered was one of the biggest sticking points in any divorce: How the assets amassed during the marriage will be divided.

And there may never have been more money than in this case.

Jeff Bezos is ranked at the top of most lists of the world's wealthiest people, and his fortune currently hovers around $137 billion, according to estimates by both Forbes and Bloomberg. Virtually all of that is tied up in the nearly 79 million shares of Amazon stock (currently worth about $130 billion) that Bezos owns, translating into a 16 percent stake in the Seattle company. Bezos, 54, also owns rocket ship maker Blue Origin and The Washington Post, which he bought for $250 million in 2013.

Because the pair were married before Amazon was founded, it's likely that MacKenzie Bezos, a 48-year-old novelist, holds a large claim to that fortune, though details hinge on where the couple files for divorce and if they had a prenuptial agreement.

King County, where their home is located, confirmed on Twitter Wednesday that the Bezoses had not filed for divorce in court. The couple own a home in a wealthy Seattle suburb within the county. Jeff Bezos also bought a mansion in a swanky Washington D.C. neighborhood last year for $23 million. The Bezoses have four children.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

01/09/19
Amendment No. 1
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
2014	CDBG	CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost 2014	NMHC	$193,092.20	($109,070.75)	N/A	$193,092.20
2015	CDBG	15 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost	NMHC	$194,186.00	($64,936.74)	N/A	$194,186.00
2016	CDBG	16 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost	NMHC	$196,969.20	(125,992.51)	$70,976.69	$196,969.20
			Total:		**($300,000.00)**		
2018	CDBG	Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota	Saipan Mayors Office (New)		$250,000.00	N/A	N/A
2018	CDBG	Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota	Tinian Mayors Office (New)		$25,000.00	N/A	N/A
2018	CDBG	Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota	Rota Mayors Office (New)		$25,0000.00	N/A	N/A
			Total:		**$300,000.00**		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) requires our agency to publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over $50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before January 23, 2019, no later than 10 a.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

Nation

Trump stalks out of shutdown talks with Dems, says 'bye-bye'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump walked out of his negotiating meeting with congressional leaders Wednesday — "I said bye-bye," he tweeted— as efforts to end the 19-day partial government shutdown fell into deeper disarray over his demand for billions of dollars to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

In a negotiating session that was over almost as soon as it began, Democrats went to the White House asking Trump to reopen the government. Trump renewed his call for money for his signature campaign promise and was rebuffed. Republicans and Democrats had differing accounts of the brief exchange, but the result was clear: The partial shutdown continued with no end in sight.

Hundreds of thousands of federal workers will miss paychecks on Friday; a little more than half of them are still working without pay. Other key federal services are suspended, including some food inspections. And as some lawmakers expressed discomfort with the growing toll of the standoff, it was clear Wednesday that the wall was at the center.

Trump revived his threat to attempt to override Congress by declaring a national emergency to unleash Defense Department funding for the wall. He's due to visit the border Thursday to highlight what he declared in an Oval Office speech Tuesday night as a "crisis." Democrats say Trump is manufacturing the emergency to justify a political ploy.

That debate set the tone for Wednesday's sit-down at the White House.

Republicans said Trump posed a direct question to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi: If he opened the government, would she fund the wall? She said no. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Trump slammed his hand on the table, said "then we have nothing to discuss" and walked out.

Republicans said Trump, who passed out candy at the start of the meeting, did not raise his voice and there was no table pounding. Pelosi said Trump "stomped" out of the room and was "petulant." Republicans said he was merely firm.

"The president made clear today that he is going to stand firm to achieve his priorities to build a wall — a steel barrier — at the southern border," Vice President Mike Pence told reporters afterward.

Trump had just returned from Capitol Hill, where he urged jittery congressional Republicans to hold firm with him. He suggested a deal for his border wall might be getting closer, but he also said the shutdown would last "whatever it takes."

He discussed the possibility of a sweeping immigration compromise with Democrats to protect some immigrants from deportation but provided no clear strategy or timeline for resolving the standoff, according to senators in the private session. He left the Republican lunch boasting of "a very, very unified party," but GOP senators are publicly uneasy as the standoff ripples across the lives of Americans and interrupts the economy.

Trump insisted at the White House: "I didn't want this fight." But it was his sudden rejection of a bipartisan spending bill late last month that blindsided leaders in Congress, including Republican allies, now seeking a resolution to the shutdown.

AP

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., left, and Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., stand with President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., as Trump speaks while departing after a Senate Republican Policy luncheon, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

Comatose woman who had baby is hospitalized, police say

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona woman in a vegetative state who had a baby after she was sexually assaulted at a long-term care facility is recovering at a hospital along with her child, authorities said Wednesday as they ramped up the search for a suspect in a case that's made shockwaves.

Commenting for the first time on the investigation since the Dec. 29 birth came to light, Phoenix police said they have not ruled out anyone and are still gathering DNA from all the facility's male employees.

"She was not in a position to give consent to any of this," police spokesman Tommy Thompson said. "So if anyone can understand that, this was a helpless victim who was sexually assaulted."

He didn't release the conditions of the woman and her child, who will be taken in by his mother's family.

The case has drawn outcry from the governor to the San Carlos Apache tribe in southeastern Arizona, of which the 29-year-old victim is an enrolled member, and put the spotlight on the safety of group homes and facilities that care for those who are incapacitated or severely disabled.

"Sadly, one of her caretakers was not to be trusted and took advantage of her. It is my hope that justice will be served," tribal chairman Terry Rambler said.

Some criticized authorities for not speaking out earlier or calling the case a sexual assault.

Thompson said investigators initially didn't want to say anything that could cause a suspect to "go underground or go into hiding."

Hacienda HealthCare owns the care facility and said it welcomed DNA testing of its male workers. Authorities served a search warrant Tuesday, a day after the provider's CEO resigned.

"We will continue to cooperate with Phoenix police and all other investigative agencies to uncover the facts in this deeply disturbing, but unprecedented situation," the company said in a statement.

Thompson said police will get a court order if anyone declines to submit DNA.

Local news website Azfamily.com first reported that the woman who was in a vegetative state for more than 10 years after a near-drowning had given birth on Dec. 29.

Police were called that day on a report of a newborn in distress, Thompson said. It appears no staff knew about the pregnancy until the birth, he said, adding that anyone who knew but failed to report it could face charges.

A lawyer for the woman's family said they were outraged at the "neglect of their daughter" and asked for privacy.

"The family would like me to convey that the baby boy has been born into a loving family and will be well cared for," Phoenix attorney John Micheaels said in a statement.

The Hacienda facility serves infants, children and young adults who are "medically fragile" or have developmental disabilities, its website says. It has multiple complaints going back to 2013, most for emergency preparation or Medicaid eligibility, according to the state's online complaint database for care facilities.

But one complaint from December 2013 alleges a staffer made inappropriate sexual comments about four patients two months earlier. Nobody relayed the incidents to an administrator. That employee was later fired.

After the birth emerged, the Arizona Department of Health Services said new safety measures have been implemented, including increased staff presence during any patient interaction, more monitoring of patient care areas and additional security measures involving visitors.

Teacher strike delayed in second-largest US school district

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The union representing teachers in Los Angeles—the nation's second-largest school district—postponed the start of a strike until Monday because of the possibility of a court-ordered delay of a walkout.

United Teachers Los Angeles previously said its 35,000 members would walk off the job Thursday for the first time in 30 years if a deal wasn't reached on higher pay and smaller class sizes.

However, a judge was considering Wednesday whether the union gave legally proper notice of a strike and could have ordered teachers to wait.

Union officials said they believe they would have prevailed in court but decided to postpone a strike to avoid confusion and give teachers, parents and others time to prepare.

The Los Angeles Unified School District, with 640,000 students, said the delay provides an opportunity to keep talking and avoid a strike.

Teachers are hoping to build on the "Red4Ed" movement that began last year in West Virginia, where a strike resulted in a significant raise.

It moved to Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado and Washington state, spreading from conservative states with "right to work" laws that limit the ability to strike to the more liberal West Coast with strong unions.

"What you're seeing with unions is real enthusiasm and a belief that you can actually be successful," said Robert Bruno, a professor of labor and employment relations at the University of Illinois. "The educational sector is rife with deep grievance and frustration, but there's now a sense that you can actually win."

The walkouts in other states emboldened organized labor after a critical defeat at the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled last year that government workers can't be required to join unions and pay dues.

"Each state is different, but the commonality across all states is teachers, and parents are sick of schools not being invested in," union President Alex Caputo-Pearl said.

The Los Angeles district has offered a 6 percent raise over the first two years of a three-year contract. The union wants a 6.5 percent hike that would take effect all at once and be retroactive to fiscal 2017. Health care fully paid by the district and a pension plan would be unchanged under both proposals.

The union also wants significantly smaller class sizes, which routinely top 30 students, and more nurses, librarians and counselors to "fully staff" the district's campuses in Los Angeles and all or parts of 31 smaller cities, plus several unincorporated areas.

Asia

AMID TERROR FEARS

Huge crowd of Filipino Catholics gathers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A mammoth crowd of mostly barefoot Filipino Catholics joined a raucous procession Wednesday of a centuries-old black statue of Jesus Christ despite terrorism fears and amid the president's attacks on the Catholic faith.

Police said they have not monitored any specific threat but that they deployed more than 9,000 police and troops, including bomb squads backed by a surveillance helicopter, to secure the annual procession of the wooden Black Nazarene along Manila's streets. Police were expecting up to 5 million people to join the dawn-to-midnight procession.

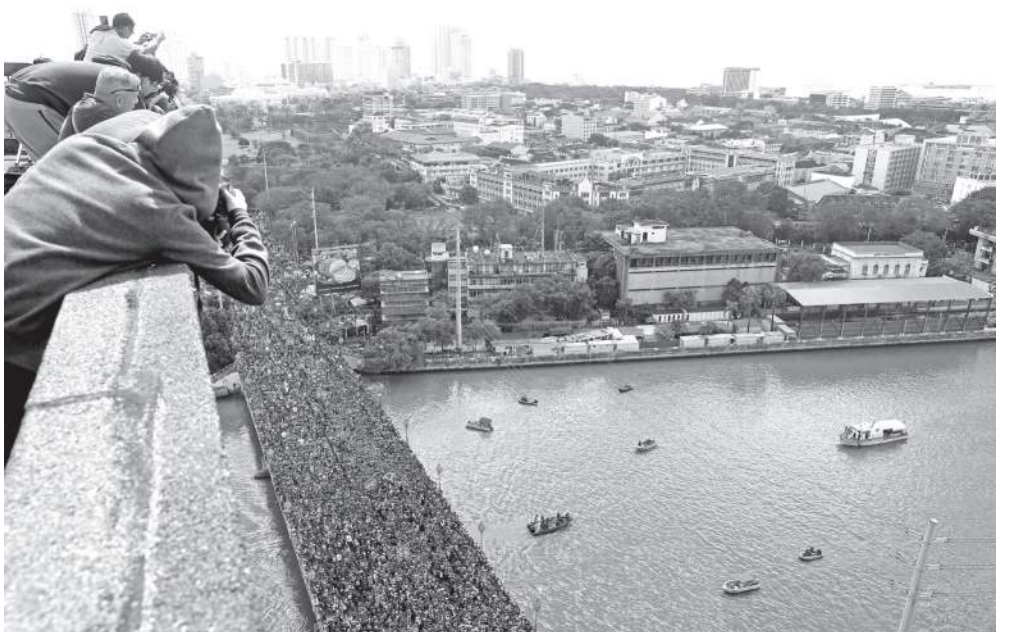
More than 800,000 devotees attended a Mass and the first few hours of the procession, national police Director General Oscar Albayalde said. Tens of thousands of others joined in and went as one of Asia's biggest religious events unfolded.

Authorities imposed a gun and liquor ban and cellphone signals were jammed in the vicinity of the procession. Flights over the area were prohibited along with sailing in nearby Manila Bay and along a key river where special police and coast guard forces guarded bridges that the mass of devotees passed through.

Despite the threats and the tropical heat, mobs of devotees in maroon shirts dangerously squeezed their way into the tight pack of humanity around a carriage carrying the life-size statue of Christ. They threw small towels at volunteers on the carriage, which was being pulled by ropes, to wipe parts of the cross and the statue in the belief that the Nazarene's powers cure ailments and ensure good health and a better life.

"I'm praying so I can walk again and be cured of depression," said Pochi Maximo, who held on to a wheeled walking device as she waited along a road with her daughter for the procession to pass.

The 58-year-old housewife said she has joined the religious gathering since childhood as part of a family tradition and persisted to be at Wednesday's procession despite debilitating knee and spine ailments that were diagnosed last year, along with diabetes, that drove her into pits of depression.



AP

Philippine Coast Guards keep watch as Filipino Roman Catholic devotees cross the bridge in a raucous procession of the Black Nazarene to celebrate its feast day Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019, in Manila, Philippines.

NKorean leader reportedly committed to 2nd summit with Trump

BEIJING (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has reportedly told the leader of his only major ally, China, that he is committed to setting up a second summit with President Donald Trump to "achieve results" on the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula.

The comments, contained in reports Thursday from Chinese and North Korean state media, came after Kim left Beijing on his special armored train for Pyongyang after a two-day visit to the Chinese capital.

Kim's trip to China — his fourth in the past 10 months — is believed to be an effort to coordinate with Beijing ahead of a possible second summit with Trump. It comes after U.S. and North Korean officials are thought to have met in Vietnam to discuss the site of the summit.

Kim met with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his trip, Chinese and North Korea state media reported Thursday. It wasn't clear from the reports if Kim was in back in the North, but his train presumably would arrive sometime Thursday.

Xi was quoted as saying that China supports the U.S.-North Korea summits and hopes the two sides "will meet each other halfway." The North said in its report that Xi accepted an invitation to visit North Korea, although details of when he might come were not given.

Kim reportedly said North Korea "will continue sticking to the stance of denuclearization and resolving the Korean Peninsula issue through dialogue and consultation, and make efforts for the second summit between (North Korean) and U.S. leaders to achieve results that will be welcomed by the international community."

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

2019 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2018 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. Immediately after the representations, election of four (4) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or more information contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PORT OF SAIPAN, PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-005-19

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of security cameras and surveillance systems at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 11, 2019** at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of Security Cameras and Surveillance System, Port of Saipan, Project No. CPA-RFP-005-19". One original and three copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 01, 2019** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at the CPA Seaport Conference Room located at the Port of Saipan on **January 25, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit will be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Ports Manager, Rodney James Taisacan to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the surveillance cameras and systems are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

This Project is funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

World

Pompeo, in Iraq, seeks to reassure Kurds on Syria withdrawal

AP
U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and his wife Susan, right, are greeted by Assistant Foreign Minister For North and South American Affairs, Reda Habeeb Ibrahim Zaki , second from left, and Charge d'Affaires for the US Embassy in Egypt, Tom Goldberger at they arrive at Cairo International Airport in Cairo, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

BAGHDAD (AP)—Secretary of State Mike Pompeo sought Wednesday to reassure U.S.-backed Kurdish forces in Syria that they will be safe after American troops withdraw from the country.

Amid confusion over plans to implement President Donald Trump's pullout order and threats from Turkey to attack the Kurds, Pompeo made an unannounced stop in Iraq while on a weeklong trip to the Middle East aimed at assuaging the fears of Washington's Arab partners that the U.S. is abandoning the region or walking away from the fight against the Islamic State group.

"These have been folks that have fought with us and it's important that we do everything we can to ensure that those folks that fought with us are protected," Pompeo said of the Kurds while visiting Irbil, the capital of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, after talks in Baghdad.

His comments were similar to those made earlier in the week by Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, who said on visits to Israel and Turkey that protecting the Kurds is a priority for the U.S. even as it moves to withdraw some 2,000 American troops from Syria.

Bolton's comments drew a quick rejection from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who said they were a "serious mistake" and that Turkey "cannot make any concessions in this regard." Turkey regards the Kurds as terrorists and has vowed to attack them.

Pompeo, however, downplayed Erdogan's response to Bolton and predicted that any differences could be ironed out in upcoming talks between the U.S. special envoy for Syria, Jim Jeffrey, and Turkish and Kurdish officials.

"Erdogan has made commitments; he understands that - I think he uses the language - he talks about he has no beef with the Kurds. We want to make sure that that's the case, and I'm confident that as Ambassador Jeffrey and others travel through the region in the days ahead, we'll make real progress on that," Pompeo said.

Still, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Wednesday that Turkey will not refrain from military action to protect its borders from what he describes as threats posed by Syrian Kurdish fighters.

The Turkish rebuffs continue to amplify a rift between the NATO allies and raise new questions about how the United States would protect fighters who are U.S. allies in the war against the Islamic State group.

Earlier in Baghdad, Pompeo said he told Iraqi officials that "the fight to counter Iran is real and important."

Pompeo and Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi discussed efforts to ensure the "lasting defeat throughout the region" of the Islamic State group, State Department spokesman Robert Palladino said.

Congo: Opposition leader Tshisekedi wins presidential vote

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Congo opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi has won the presidential election, the electoral commission announced early Thursday, as the vast country braced for possible protests over alleged rigging.

Tshisekedi, who received more than 7 million votes or 38 percent, had not been widely considered the leading candidate. Some observers have suggested that President Joseph Kabila's government sought to make a deal as hopes faded for a win for ruling party candidate Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary. Shadary received more than 4 million votes or 23 percent.

It is not immediately clear whether opposition candidate Martin Fayulu, who led in polling and warned against manipulation, will contest the results. The constitutional court has 14 days to validate them. Fayulu received more than 6 million votes or 38 percent.

Tshisekedi, son of late opposition icon Etienne yet relatively unknown, has achieved what his father pursued for decades.

The delayed results come after international pressure to announce an outcome that reflected the will of the people. The United States threatened sanctions against officials who rigged the vote. Election observers had reported numerous irregularities.

Kabila has ruled since 2001 in the troubled nation rich in the minerals key to smartphones around the world. This could be Congo's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence in 1960.

Observers before dawn waited to see how Congolese would respond, especially after Fayulu this week warned that the results were "not negotiable" amid speculation of a possible deal. Kabila has amassed vast wealth and is expected to protect it. Fayulu has pledged to clean up the country's widespread corruption.

Activist groups on Wednesday urged people to "be ready to massively take to the streets" if results didn't match "the truth of the ballot boxes."

Attention turns to Congo's powerful Catholic church, which has said its 40,000 election observers at all polling stations found a "clear winner" but was barred by electoral regulations from saying more.

If the church found Fayulu won, "how will population react?" Stephanie Wolters, analyst with the Institute for Security Studies, posted on Twitter ahead of the announcement. She added, will the African Union "consider a power transfer 'enough' or will they push for investigation and real result?"

The largely peaceful election was marred by the malfunctioning of many voting machines that Congo used for the first time. Dozens of polling centers opened hours late as materials went missing. And in a last-minute decision, some 1 million of the country's 40 million voters were barred from participating, with the electoral commission blaming a deadly Ebola virus outbreak.

Defiantly, tens of thousands of voters in one of the barred communities held their own ballot on election day. Fayulu won easily.

Congo's government cut internet service the day after the vote to prevent speculation on social media. As the electoral commission met this week, anti-riot police moved into place outside.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN says some 30,000 people flee new Nigeria fighting

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Some 30,000 people have fled fresh fighting in northeastern Nigeria, the United Nations said Wednesday, amid what the government has called an extremist resurgence. The clashes between Nigeria's military and armed groups near Lake Chad late last month triggered "massive displacement" and a "humanitarian tragedy," said the statement by the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Nigeria, Edward Kallon. The fighting also has caused some 260 aid workers to leave conflict-affected areas since November in what the U.N. called "the largest withdrawal of aid workers since the international humanitarian response scaled up in 2016." The recent surge in attacks by Boko Haram extremists and the offshoot Islamic State West Africa Province has caused alarm in Nigeria and posed a major challenge for President Muhammadu Buhari as he seeks a second term in next month's election. Nigeria's government recently confirmed the extremists had begun using drones, calling it a "critical factor" in a rise in attacks against military bases. In November alone it acknowledged dozens of soldier deaths.

Iran says it holds US Navy veteran, 1st arrest of Trump era

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran confirmed Wednesday it is holding U.S. Navy veteran Michael R. White at a prison in the country, making him the first American known to be detained under President Donald Trump's administration. White's detention adds new pressure to the rising tension between Iran and the U.S., which under Trump has pursued a maximalist campaign against Tehran that includes pulling out of its nuclear deal with world powers. Although the circumstances of White's detention remain unclear, Iran in the past has used its detention of Westerners and dual nationals as leverage in negotiations. The semi-official Tasnim news agency, believed to be close to the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, reported the confirmation, citing Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi. "An American citizen was arrested in the city of Mashhad some time ago and his case was conveyed to the U.S administration on the first days" of his incarceration, Ghasemi was quoted as saying.

Malta allows migrants off rescue ships in 8-nation EU deal

VALLETTA, Malta (AP)—Racing an approaching storm, Maltese military vessels took to shore 49 migrants who were kept in limbo on private rescue ships until the island nation reached a deal Wednesday for the asylum-seekers to be distributed among eight other European Union members. The deal ended an impasse that kept the migrants stuck on the rescue boats while European governments negotiated which countries would take them. A ship operated by German rescue group Sea-Watch picked up 32 people on Dec. 22. Another aid group, Sea-Eye, rescued 17 in waters off Libya on Dec. 29. "After 19 days at sea, our guests finally have a safe haven," a tweet from Sea-Watch's account read. "It is a testament to state failure; politics should never be played at the cost of people in need." When the deal was announced, the aid boats were about 5 nautical miles off the coast of Malta, which denied them permission to port but let the vessels shelter in its territorial waters for days.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW HOME IN PARADISE

Francisco Santos Dela Cruz

[Affectionately known as "Frank" or "Liki"]

March 29, 1962 – January 06, 2019

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life." [John 3:16]

Celebrating the spirit of Christmas and the feast of the Three Kings, our Creator shone the bright star of Bethlehem on the path as Frank walked to his new home in Paradise.

In his peaceful and loving spirit, he answered the call and at the pearly gates of heaven, Frank was greeted and reunited with his parents Tomas Castro and Remedio Sablan Santos Dela Cruz; his brother Ignacio "Tex"; his parents-in-law Vicente Muna and Rita Aquiningoc Manglona; his brothers-in-law Herman Heacock, George Aquiningoc Manglona and Julian Aquiningoc Manglona.

Frank lived a very simple, happy, and fulfilling life and was so loved and respected as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, nephew and a friend. He was so giving and caring as a public servant, and as a Legislator, he strongly committed himself to be the voice of the people he served. He unselfishly shared his wealth of intelligence and wisdom in his fervent desire to contribute in improving the lives of those he served, and along the way Frank had, indeed, touched the lives of many.

Frank's loving and peaceful spirit will forever be cherished and kept closely in the hearts of his wife Lisa, their children and their families – Divana M. Dela Cruz and Raymond V. Salas (Raymana); Dana DLC. and Antonio B. Bornilla (Joseph); Deveney M. Dela Cruz and Eric Devin Atalig; and Damien M. Dela Cruz. He will be greatly missed by his siblings and their families – Juan S. and Andresina T. Dela Cruz; Jose S. and Rita S. Dela Cruz; Maria DLC. and Jose Blas; Elizabeth DLC. Heacock; Ramon S. and Josephine S. Dela Cruz; Edward S. and Vivian S. Dela Cruz; his in-laws – Cindy M. and John D. Attao; Norman A. and Katherine D. Manglona; Charlene M. Lizama and Joseph Borja; Patrick A. Manglona and Venus Adtoon; and Lori Manglona Mendiola; his maternal aunt Lourdes S. Waki; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, and friends.

Daily masses of intention are offered at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Frank will be with us for the last time on Saturday, January 19, 2019. Recitation of the Holy Rosary will be at 7:00 a.m. at the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel. The funeral cortege will proceed to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately with the Rite of Committal at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

May God Bless Us All

Lisa Manglona Dela Cruz, Children and Grandchildren

†Children of Tomas Castro & Remedio Santos Dela Cruz and families

Off the Wall

Missing cat found 2 months later

DETROIT (AP)—A cat who went missing from suburban Detroit for two months turned up more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) away in Florida.

Dearborn resident Judy Sanborn was shocked when she received a call in December from BluePearl pet hospital in Tampa, The Detroit Free Press reported . Staff told her they had her 2 1/2-year-old tabby named Bandit.

Staff told Sanborn that a local resident had found the cat, who'd been identified through his microchip.

Jose Calderon, an emergency veterinary technician manager at BluePearl, said he's never seen an animal take such a long trip in his 30-year career.

"A block over, a street over, or maybe even (from) Orlando, which is an hour away from us. This is the farthest away I've seen," he said.

It's unclear how Bandit made the cross-country trek. Sanborn guesses he hitched a ride on a moving vehicle or was found by someone in Michigan on their way to Florida. Sanborn joked that she hopes Bandit isn't disappointed to go from sunny Florida to Michigan's cold.

Bandit is set to catch a return flight to Michigan this week.

Sanborn said Bandit has been an indoor-outdoor cat with the freedom to leave her house to hunt for critters outside. She hasn't yet decided whether she'll restrict Bandit indoors, but she does plan to give him a collar with her phone number so she can easily be reached if he wanders away again.

"He (is) a little traveler," Sanborn said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Reporter who helped foil robbery finds missing woman

SHELBY TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—A reporter who helped police catch a robbery suspect last week followed up with another good deed by finding an 89-year-old suburban Detroit woman with dementia who had wandered away from home in sub-freezing temperatures. WWJ reporter Mike Campbell was covering Barbara Kasler's disappearance when he spotted her Wednesday morning in her pajamas and slippers along a street in Shelby Township. Campbell took Kasler into his vehicle and cranked up the heat until police arrived. She was taken to a hospital for observation. Campbell says he was just "in the right place at the right time," but police tweeted that "We owe you lunch!" Last week, Campbell helped police apprehend a man suspected of looting a fire-damaged shopping center in the Detroit suburb of Warren.

Stolen purple penguin statue returned to hotel museum

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A large purple penguin statue that was swiped from a hotel in Oklahoma City apparently managed to waddle back home after police released surveillance camera images of a man with the $3,000 piece of art tucked under his arm. Oklahoma City police on Friday announced that the statue, which disappeared Sunday night from the 21c Museum Hotel, had been "returned home." No arrests have been announced. Hotel staff speculated that it was stolen by someone visiting a guest . Surveillance images show a man carrying the artwork by its head. The penguin is about two-thirds the height of the statue thief. A spokeswoman for the hotel said she was "thrilled the penguin has been returned to our flock ."

Bank robbery suspect held after stripping, awaiting arrest

SOLANA BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Authorities are holding a man they say tried to rob a San Diego County bank, then told frightened customers to call 911, stripped to his underwear and awaited arrest. Thirty-five-year-old Clint Gray was arrested Thursday at a Wells Fargo branch in Solana Beach. It's not known if he has an attorney. Derek Stevenson tells the San Diego Union-Tribune that he was one of three customers inside the bank when the man entered shortly after the branch opened, shouted that it was a robbery and ordered everyone to the ground. As staff and customers complied, the man told people to call 911, began stripping to his underwear, then sat in a chair near the front door until deputies arrived. Authorities say the robber had no weapon and no cash was taken.

Austrian train workers rescue wild goat buried in snowdrift

BERLIN (AP)—Austrian train workers have shut down their track clearing operations to rescue a mountain goat after seeing it get buried in a deluge of snow they had been clearing from the rails. Austrian news agency APA reported Wednesday two workers leapt out of the train and shoveled through the snow to reach the chamois, a type of goat-antelope. The animal was stuck in a snowdrift at the side of tracks in the Gesaeuse national park in central Austria. They say the animal seemed transfixed by the oncoming train and didn't move away from the side of the tracks despite persistent honking. After the chamois was freed, it loped away through the deep snow into a forest. Austrian Railway OEBB released a video of the rescue, which quickly got thousands of views.

Oklahoma game warden catches poacher via dating app

CHECOTAH, Okla. (AP)—An Oklahoma woman looking for love got more than she bargained for when she unwittingly shared her exhilaration about illegally shooting a "bigo buck" on a dating app with a state game warden. Oklahoma Game Warden Cannon Harrison says he uncovered the poaching in a conversation on Bumble with a McIntosh County woman. She talked about using a spotlight to shoot the deer at night, outside the rifle season. The woman only harvested the head and backstrap meat—and she sent Harrison pictures as proof. The woman has pleaded guilty to charges of improper possession of an illegally taken animal and taking game out-of-season. She and an accomplice face $2,400 fines. The incident was posted to the Oklahoma Game Wardens Facebook page on Sunday night.

Not for pick-up: Spilled chicken cause traffic problems

CENTRE, Ala. (AP)—These chicken tenders aren't for pick-up. An Alabama sheriff's office is warning people against eating chicken that tumbled on to a rural highway after a truck wreck. An 18-wheeler crashed on Alabama 35 on Sunday, spilling boxes of chicken tenders in Cherokee County near the Georgia line. Motorists began stopping to pick up the food, which authorities say created a traffic hazard. The Cherokee County Emergency Management Agency posted a notice on its Facebook page asking people to quit picking up the chicken. The notice says the food isn't safe to eat after hours on the ground. The post also says the situation was creating a traffic hazard and it's a crime to block traffic. Violators could face charges. The sheriff's office says a wrecker crew was on the scene Monday cleaning up the mess.

Science & Technology

Tech Q&A: How to make e-mail better for you

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q I use the Windows 10 Mail program to access my Comcast and Gmail accounts. But when I turn on the PC, I get a pop-up message that says "Either there is no default mail client or the current mail client cannot fulfill the messaging request. Please run Microsoft Outlook and set it as the default mail client." But I don't use Outlook. What should I do?

A It depends on how you prefer to view e-mail. Let's look at your choices.

Client software: Windows 10 Mail and Microsoft Outlook are e-mail programs that run on your PC, known as "client software." You are receiving the warning message because you haven't designated either Windows 10 Mail or Outlook as your PC's "default mail client." (To do that, see tinyurl.com/y9vrkgec.)

Webmail: Gmail, Yahoo Mail and Outlook.com have popularized the use of "webmail," which exists only online. You log into a website to read and manage your mail, which is never stored on your PC. If you use webmail, you don't need Windows 10 Mail or Outlook.

Which method should you choose? If you want to simultaneously use two or more e-mail accounts, it makes sense to consolidate their messages in the Windows 10 Mail program. (To add other e-mail accounts to Windows 10 Mail, see tinyurl.com/yc5yrkam).

But if you would prefer to use a single e-mail account, or to keep your two accounts separate, you can log in to the Comcast or Gmail websites (Comcast is at my.xfinity.com; Gmail is at gmail.com.)

Q Debbie O'Bryant of Haines City, Fla., and Larry Forbes of Winter Haven, Fla., asked what they could do to stop a flood of pornographic spam.

A: The answer is, not much. But there are some best practices you can follow to minimize the amount of spam you receive. They include:

- Mark objectionable mail as spam. This helps your e-mail provider improve its "spam filter," which is software that identifies which e-mail to block before it reaches your inbox.
- Never respond to spam, and never, ever click on a link in a spam message.
- Don't publish your e-mail address online. If you must include your e-mail address on a website, get a second e-mail address and list it instead of your main address.
- You can replace your current e-mail address, but that's hardly a cure-all. It's a hassle to inform all your contracts of a new address, and eventually your new e-mail address will get spam, too.

Q About a month ago, the Edge browser in my Windows 10 PC began getting weird lines in the graphics of all the websites I use. The Google Chrome browser works fine on the same websites. How can I fix Edge?

A It's easiest to use the Chrome browser instead of Microsoft Edge. But if you want to use Edge, try downloading the latest software driver for your PC's video card (aka graphics card), or reinstalling the driver you already have (see tinyurl.com/ya8bw88k). If that doesn't work, it's possible that the websites you are viewing aren't compatible with the latest update to the Edge browser.

Science Matters
When does dementia make drivers unsafe?
Not everyone diagnosed with a dementia, especially in the early stages, needs to stop driving immediately.
Many families have to make difficult, delicate decisions about whether a person with dementia should no longer drive.
• Fails to check for hazards before pulling out
New study lists these signs that a person's driving is becoming unsafe:
• Inability to hold a steady course in lane
• Has trouble changing gears or misses gear changes
• Forgets to release parking brake
• Difficulty in following subtle bends in road
• Seems "overwhelmed" in everyday driving
• Less ability to make decisions when driving
• Erratic steering when confronted with changes in road or driving environment
• Repeated failure to respond in intersections, busy places
• Driving too close to parked cars or when passing
• Passengers are aware of person's changed driving ability when traveling
• Passengers have to prompt or warn driver when moving
Source: John-Paul Taylor of Newcastle University (UK) and National Institute for Health Research Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

'The Favourite' leads race for British Academy Film Awards

LONDON (AP)—Wickedly funny royal comedy-drama "The Favourite" lived up to its name Wednesday, leading the race for the British Academy Film Awards.

Yorgos Lanthimos' film received 12 nominations for the U.K. equivalent of the Oscars, including best film, best director and best actress, for Olivia Colman. Colman won a Golden Globe on Sunday for her performance as Britain's 18th-century Queen Anne.

Colman's co-stars, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz, received supporting actress nominations as the two women competing for the monarch's patronage.

"'The Favourite' has been many, many years in the making and we, the entire filmmaking team, are incredibly proud to have received this profound recognition today," Lanthimos said. "I'm especially happy for the magnificent triumvirate that is Olivia, Rachel, and Emma, whose immense talent bring our film to life."

Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody," lunar drama "First Man," autobiographical Mexican story "Roma" and musical melodrama "A Star Is Born" each received seven nominations for the prizes, considered an indicator of likely success at Hollywood's Academy Awards in what's shaping up to be an unpredictable awards season.

The winners will be announced Feb. 10—two weeks before the Oscars—at a ceremony in London hosted by "Absolutely Fabulous" star Joanna Lumley.

Best-picture nominees are "The Favourite," Roma," "A Star is Born" and two very different movies about racism in America: "Green Book" and "BlacKkKlansman."

Nominees for best British film—a separate category—are Channel Islands thriller "Beast," "Bohemian Rhapsody," "The Favourite," fashion documentary "McQueen," Laurel and Hardy biopic "Stan and Ollie" and crime thriller "You Were Never Really Here."

Emma Stone, left, poses in the press room with Olivia Colman, winner of the Desert Palm achievement award for "The Favourite" at the 30th annual Palm Springs International Film Festival on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019, in Palm Springs, Calif. AP

Best actress nominees are Colman, Glenn Close for "The Wife," Lady Gaga for "A Star is Born," Melissa McCarthy for "Can You Ever Forgive Me?" and Viola Davis for "Widows."

Best actor contenders are Bradley Cooper for "A Star is Born," Christian Bale for "Vice," Rami Malek for "Bohemian Rhapsody," Viggo Mortensen for "Green Book" and Steve Coogan for "Stan and Ollie."

Coogan, who plays funnyman Stan Laurel, said it was odd to be nominated when John C. Reilly, who plays the other half of the comedic duo, Oliver Hardy, was overlooked.

"It's always odd when I get a nomination and John doesn't," he told The Associated Press in an interview alongside his co-star. "But John got a nod from the Golden Globes and I didn't, so we're evens at the moment so we can move on."

He said the film was "a collaboration. It's a 50/50 right down the middle thing ... like Laurel and Hardy, this film can't exist with one of us and not the other."

Added Reilly: "It's like giving an award to salt and pepper is like, 'Hey, come on.'"

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kevin Hart says he won't be hosting Academy Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Hart says he won't be hosting the Academy Awards. "No," was his response when asked Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America." Hart says it's too late to prepare. Hart added it's "hard to predict what can happen." But he doesn't want "people to think there's a thing about me and the Academy." The motion picture academy has not named a replacement host for its Feb. 24 awards show since Hart backed away days after being named host last month when some anti-gay tweets he posted a decade ago resurfaced. Earlier this week on his Sirius XM show "Straight from the Hart" program, he again apologized to the LGBTQ community. He told "GMA" he's not giving any more explanations. Hart says, "I'm just done."

Sundance adds Michael Jackson Neverland doc about accusers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A documentary film about two boys who accused Michael Jackson of sexual abuse is set to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival later this month. The Sundance Institute announced the addition of "Leaving Neverland" and "The Brink," a documentary about Steve Bannon, to its 2019 lineup on Wednesday. A description of "Leaving Neverland" says it will tell the story of two men who are now in their 30s and began long-running relationships with Jackson at ages 7 and 10 when Jackson was at the height of his fame. The names of the Jackson accusers profiled in the documentary were not released. Jackson was acquitted of molestation charges in 2005. The film is produced and directed by BAFTA-winning director Dan Reed. The Sundance Film Festival kicks off on Jan 24 and runs through Feb. 4.

Nielsen says 35 million people watched Trump speech

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 35.3 million people saw President Donald Trump and Democratic leaders speak to the nation on border security and the partial government shutdown. That's about 10 million fewer viewers than Trump had for his 2018 State of the Union address. The Nielsen company said Wednesday it was similar to President Barack Obama's 2014 presidential address on fighting the Islamic state, which was seen by 34 million people. There was some internal debate at networks about whether to grant Trump the TV time for Tuesday's speech, but 11 separate networks aired it. Fox News Channel with 8.044 million viewers and CBS with 8.043 million were in a virtual dead heat as the top destination. NBC was third with 7 million, followed by ABC, MSNBC, CNN and Fox broadcasting.

Cardi B leads iHeartRadio Awards with 13 nods, Drake has 8

NEW YORK (AP)—Cardi B has 13 reasons to celebrate: She's nominated for 13 honors at the 2019 iHeartRadio Music Awards. IHeartMedia announced Wednesday that the rapper is the most nominated act, competing for honors such as song of the year for "Girls Like You" with Maroon 5 and female artist of the year. Drake follows Cardi B with eight nominations and is up for song of the year with "God's Plan." Other song-of-the-year nominees include Ed Sheeran's "Perfect," Post Malone's "Better Now" and "The Middle" by Zedd, Maren Morris and Grey. The iHeartRadio Awards will make its debut on Fox when it airs live March 14 from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. Ariana Grande earned six nominations, while J Balvin, Maroon 5, Post Malone and Marshmello each scored five nominations.

Introvert experiences slow start fitting in on new job

DEAR ABBY: I started a new job a month ago. It's a well-paying job at a great company. My problem is I'm an insecure introvert. Making friends has always been hard for me. At this new job, my desk is away from everyone else, and no one has ever asked me to lunch.

I'm sure if I reached out proactively and asked to tag along, I wouldn't be rejected. But the thought of having to ask semi-strangers to include me and having to make small talk during lunch makes me anxious. I'm also afraid people will label me as part of certain subgroups within the department. I don't want to be in any clique. What should I do?

INSECURE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR INSECURE: Not everyone makes small talk easily, so don't fault yourself for finding it awkward. Ask your co-workers what places they recommend for lunch and tag along when the opportunity arises. I don't think you need to "do" much more than slowly get to know them as you interact over work-related matters.

A positive way to get attention would be to bring some pastries and a fresh fruit salad to share one day during the morning break. It's a friendly gesture I'm sure would be appreciated.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My brother died 10 years ago. He was only 50. He was married for 15 years to a woman I'll call Alice. A few years later, Alice became engaged but never remarried because she would've lost my brother's benefits.

Her fiance died a couple of months ago, and now she's posting repeatedly on Facebook that she has lost "the love of her life." I think it's extremely disrespectful to my brother. I understand she may feel that way, but to continue to post it is a slap in the face to our brother. I've read your column for years, and you are usually spot on with your advice, so I would appreciate your opinion.

SAD SISTER IN THE EAST

DEAR SAD SISTER: Alice's outpouring of emotion is less a slap in the face to your deceased brother than biting the hand that has fed her all these years. She isn't thinking about how her comments are affecting you and her other former in-laws, and there's nothing to be gained by trying to shut her up now. You will be happier if you stop reading her Facebook posts, and that's what I recommend you do.

DEAR ABBY: I have a relative who has, over the years, gotten many colorful tattoos on his arms, back and chest. I make no value judgments about this, but I am curious about what in today's culture motivates people to get tattoos, and why many people can't seem to get enough of them.

CURIOUS IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■ ■

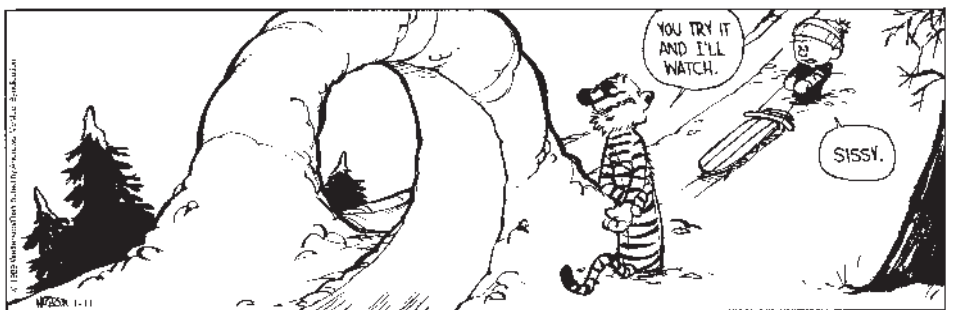
DEAR CURIOUS: People get inked for a variety of reasons. Among them: because they are currently in fashion, they think they are pretty, to mark milestones in their life, someone they admire has one or more, or because their friends are doing it. And I suspect that some individuals turn their bodies into canvasses because the practice is somehow addictive.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

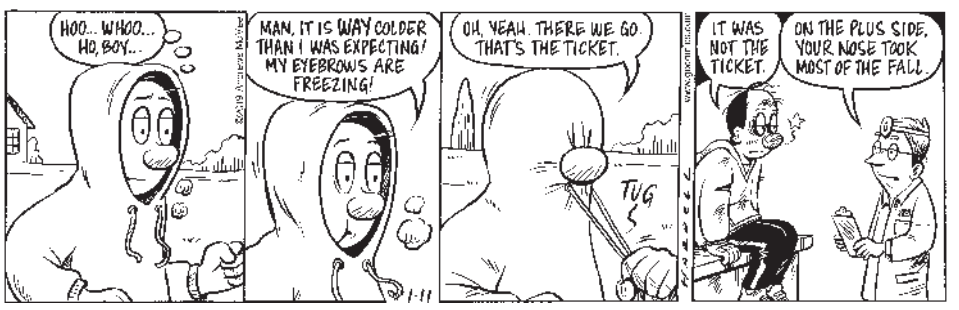


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HOO... WHOO... HO, BOY...
MAN, IT IS WAY COLDER THAN I WAS EXPECTING! MY EYEBROWS ARE FREEZING!
OH, YEAH. THERE WE GO. THAT'S THE TICKET.
TUG
IT WAS NOT THE TICKET.
ON THE PLUS SIDE, YOUR NOSE TOOK MOST OF THE FALL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW WAS YOUR MEAL?
BURP
I'M HAVING SHARP STABBING PAINS IN MY STOMACH.
I HOPE IT'S NOT FOOD POISONING
NO. ACTUALLY I THINK IT'S MY BELT BUCKLE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE WORN YOUR "EATING OUT STRETCHY PANTS."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nightwear, for short
4 Rm. coolers
7 Fable writer
12 Decay
13 Prefix with athlete
14 Preamble
15 Mode lead-in
16 Soundly defeated
18 Zilch
19 Berth places
20 Retain
22 Away from NNW
23 Roundish 'do
27 Writer Harper
29 Sitting room
31 Prepared apples for baking
34 Street punks
35 Uproar
37 Rotating part
38 A Great Lake
39 Actor Stephen
41 Dumbstruck
45 Striped equine
47 Hockey's Bobby
48 Performed to the end
52 Gunlobby org.
53 Broadcaster
54 Codebreaking gp.
55 Small barrel
56 Musical pace
57 Thither
58 Billboards

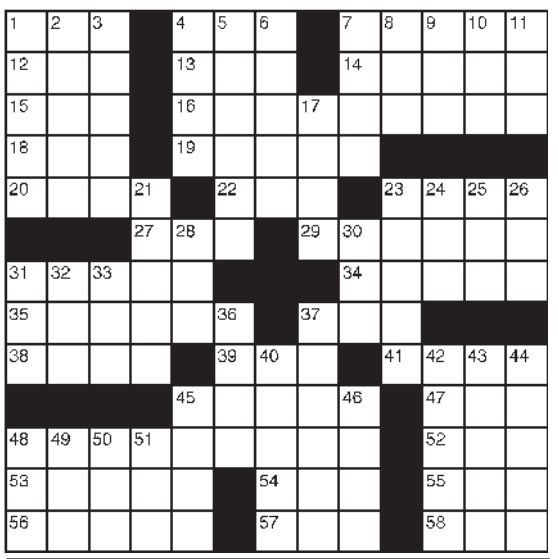
DOWN

1 Bit of mischief
2 "Salt" star Angelina
3 Trite
4 Perched on
5 Vacation at sea
6 Locations
7 Has a bug
8 Disney deer
9 Pigs' digs
10 Metal source
11 Group of whales
17 Get ready, briefly
21 West Point freshman
23 Bakery lure
24 "Alice" waitress
25 Scepter
26 Hosp. areas
28 College URL ender
30 "Eureka!"
31 "Evita" narrator
32 Owned by us
33 MLB stat
36 Raised
37 Tenor Enrico
40 Deep, lustrous black
42 Candymaker Willy
43 Goofed
44 Pulls
45 Goose egg
46 — impasse
48 Bit of butter
49 Fib
50 Branch
51 "Uh-huh"

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	I	G		M	U	S	S		M	A	Z	E
A	R	A		E	S	A	U		U	G	E	R
G	A	N	G	L	A	N	D		S	L	A	G
		G	F	O		D	A	C	T	Y	I	S
T	O	L	E	D	O		N	I	A			
J	R			Y	A	M		A	R	M	O	R
R	E	E	L		-	U	N		D	I	N	O
K	O	R	E	A		D	O	E		C	T	S
			G	N	U		N	A	C	H	O	S
D	F	B	U	S	S	Y		G	I	I		
E	X	A	M		H	O	O	L	I	G	A	N
A	P	S	E		E	Y	R	E		A	D	E
L	O	S	S		R	O	O	I		N	O	W

Yesterday's answer 1-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Peet, 47; Mary J. Blige, 48; Kim Coles, 57; Naomi Judd, 73.

Happy Birthday: Money matters must be handled conservatively. Refuse to pay for someone else's mistake. Make changes that will make you feel good about you, the way you look and the way you use your skills, knowledge and experience to get ahead. Connect with people you have enjoyed working or playing with in the past and pick up where you left off. Your numbers are 6, 13, 17, 25, 29, 32, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take more interest in your personal finances and health. Taking better care of both will relieve stress and help you protect against unexpected situations. Take control of your life and your future. Romance will improve an important relationship. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An open mind will lead to valuable information. Listen to what others have to say; it will help you make a personal decision. An emotional issue should be kept secret until you figure out how best to proceed. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Partnerships will be strained if you or the other person is excessive or overreacts. Stay focused on activities and events that will help you dispel energy you might otherwise turn into anger. Joint ventures are not in your best interest. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You can get ahead if you handle work relationships and your responsibilities professionally. Your insight into what will and won't work will put you in the running for a position you want or help you gain respect. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make plans to do something with friends or your lover. A new look or an activity that will encourage you to get fit and look fabulous will lift your spirits. Romance is on the rise, and a promise can be made. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Handle your cash with care. Getting out and participating in events that interest you is favored. A reunion is likely to bring back feelings that you've been ignoring for some time. Let go of the past and move forward. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Choose your words wisely. Someone will not agree with the way you handle your responsibilities. Physical activity will help to calm your nerves and any tension you are feeling toward someone who is being critical. Make love, not war. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll be offered good advice. Take a unique path, but do so for the right reason. A shift in the way you feel about someone will lead to a lifestyle change. Personal growth and physical fitness should be your targets. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Home improvements can be started, but first set a budget. Hosting an event or making special plans with someone you love will change the dynamics of your relationship. An emotional situation must be dealt with openly and honestly. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take care of matters personally. If you expect a friend or relative to step in, you'll be disappointed. Refuse to let anger take over when a friend or relative changes his or her mind. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put in a full day if it will help you achieve your goal. There is plenty to gain by making choices that are geared toward success. Make special plans to enjoy what you have achieved with someone you love. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to what and who you know. Working alongside like-minded people will help you avoid anyone trying to tempt or manipulate you to get involved in things that are excessive or not good for you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are generous, convincing and proactive. You are outgoing and persistent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6				9	
2		1		3		8
	7		2		1	
		8		2		
	5			4		
		1		7		
	4		9		8	
6		8		5		7
	2				3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	2	5	3	6	8	7	9	1
8	1	6	9	2	7	5	4	3
3	7	9	4	5	1	6	8	2
7	5	4	6	1	2	8	3	9
2	8	3	7	9	5	1	6	4
6	9	1	8	3	4	2	7	5
5	4	8	1	7	3	9	2	6
9	3	2	5	8	6	4	1	7
1	6	7	2	4	9	3	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE GREAT SPORT OF BASEBALL — Solution: 9 letters

C	B	D	G	N	I	L	A	E	T	S	W	I	N	G
O	A	A	N	E	F	A	S	S	A	R	G	Y	W	A
F	S	T	T	U	S	L	L	A	B	T	S	A	F	M
F	E	H	C	T	O	P	U	E	N	I	L	L	B	E
E	S	O	A	H	E	M	L	B	N	K	F	P	T	S
N	M	N	E	N	E	R	H	C	T	I	P	A	R	E
S	C	P	S	N	U	R	U	N	N	I	N	G	I	V
E	F	O	U	L	D	R	O	N	D	E	C	K	P	R
L	I	K	E	O	I	L	E	C	O	A	C	H	L	U
B	E	L	V	S	A	D	R	M	S	P	I	T	E	C
U	L	A	O	S	M	A	E	T	O	U	T	S	R	A
O	D	B	L	O	O	P	N	S	S	H	O	W	I	L
D	E	A	G	G	N	I	N	N	I	E	L	O	P	L
T	R	W	I	L	D	B	U	L	L	P	E	N	M	S
E	T	U	O	E	K	I	R	T	S	S	E	L	U	R

© 2018 King Features Syndicate www.wonderword.com 1/11

Bags. Balk. Bases. Batter. Bloop. Bullpen. Calls. Catch. Coach. Curve. Diamond. Double. Fair. Fastball. Fielder. Foul. Games. Glove. Grass. Home Run. Inning. Lineup. Loss. MLB. Mound. Nine. Offense. On Deck. Outs. Pitch. Play. Pole. Rules. Runner. Running. Runs. Safe. Score. Show. Slides. Spit. Stance. Stealing. Strikeout. Swing. Teams. Triple. Umpire. Walk. Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Breakdowns

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

(4) CEMENT LABORER

Cement handling equipment
Experience preferred.
Will train motivated individuals.
Wages - $10.00 per hour

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia, Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

(1) ACCOUNTANT

We offer good pay and benefits package

Please call 287-3903 or 287-3904

WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY has an opening for:

One (1) Wholesale Marketing Representative
Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Wholesale Marketing Representative or Sales Representative for Wholesaler.

Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular retail merchants to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Studies market conditions and monitors competition to identify prospective customers. Displays and/or demonstrates products and recommends products that meet customers' needs. Answers customers' questions about products, prices, availability, and product uses. Quotes prices, credit terms, and delivery dates for purchase of company's products. Prepares and signs order forms and sales contracts, and collects payments from customers. Delivers products to customers and ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Provides after sales support to resolve any problems and provide on-going support. Plans, assembles, stocks product displays in retail stores, checks stock levels, and makes recommendations to retailers regarding product displays, promotional programs, and reordering of merchandise. Performs other related duties.

One (1) Driver/Sales Worker
Minimum Qualification: Two (2) years of experience as a Driver/Sales Worker or Deliveryman.

Duties: Takes customer orders and relays to Accounting Office for invoicing according to company guidelines. Assists in loading merchandise, according to customer orders and invoices, to company vehicle for delivery. Delivers company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Collects money from customers, makes change, and records transactions on customers' receipts. Accounts for and remits collections to Accounting Office. Records sales and delivery information on daily sales or delivery records. Listens to and resolves customers' complaints regarding products. Performs other related duties.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to bello.lumintegar@yahoo.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three (3) days of hire.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE

Please call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: Face up to the facts

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS
- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Foles knows his time in Philly is likely nearing an end

AP
Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles responds to a reporter's question on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 in Philadelphia. The Eagles face the New Orleans Saints on Sunday in a divisional playoff game.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Foles is in a unique situation, a Super Bowl MVP trying to lead his team to a second straight championship knowing he will most likely play somewhere else next season.

Nothing about what Foles has done for the Philadelphia Eagles is ordinary.

"I'm not worried about the future but I understand where I stand and every time I wear that jersey is special," Foles said Wednesday. "We get one more week together, at least."

The Eagles (10-7) face the New Orleans Saints (13-3) in a NFC divisional playoff game on Sunday thanks to Foles' heroics in the clutch again.

He filled in when Carson Wentz sustained a knee injury in 2017 and led the Eagles to their first NFL title since 1960, going 5-0 in games that he started and finished.

Foles returned to the starting lineup after a back injury sidelined Wentz last month and has led the Eagles to four straight wins, including a 16-15 comeback victory at Chicago in the wild-card round. Facing the NFL's stingiest defense, Foles tossed a 2-yard touchdown pass to Golden Tate on fourth down with 56 seconds remaining.

But no matter how far Foles can take the Eagles, it probably won't change his standing on the team. Wentz is the franchise quarterback. He finished third in NFL MVP voting in his second season as a pro. He returned quickly after surgery to repair two torn knee ligaments, started 11 games and posted career highs in completion rate (69.6 percent) and passer rating (102.2) despite battling inconsistency and injury.

"He's the guy we drafted and moving forward, he's our quarterback," coach Doug Pederson said, repeating the same thought several times.

The Eagles must decide by mid-February if they want to exercise a $20 million option to keep Foles for 2019. That's a big price to pay a backup, though Wentz is scheduled to make a base salary of $720,000 next season with a salary cap total of about $8.5 million.

If the team declines the option, Foles becomes a free agent. If the option is picked up, Foles has five days to choose whether to accept it or void it and pay back a $2 million signing bonus. Philadelphia could elect to exercise the option and trade Foles. His salary would become fully guaranteed on March 18, the fifth day of the league year.

Wentz is under team control through 2020 and the Eagles could offer him a new long-term deal now before his asking price skyrockets.

Although it's not a debate within the organization, Foles vs. Wentz has dominated conversation among fans and sports talkers.

Foles has already won a Super Bowl and he's 25-12 as a starter in Philadelphia, going back to his first stint with the team from 2012-14. He has the highest winning percentage (.676) in franchise history.

While outsiders argue the merits of both, it has not been uncomfortable for two talented quarterbacks who are close friends and share a special bond.

"Both guys are brothers in Christ first and foremost so that's a big part of their relationship," Pro Bowl tight end Zach Ertz said.

"They understand that football is not the most important thing to them so they relate extremely well in many other things. They're extremely happy for the other guy's success.

"You don't find that everywhere. You don't find that very often on the same team let alone the same position, but that is what's different about this team. Guys truly care about one another and are happy for the other man's success."

Broncos pick Vic Fangio as new head coach

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Forget RPOs. John Elway is going with AARP.

The Chicago Bears defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, 60, has accepted Elway's offer to become the Denver Broncos' next head coach, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Broncos didn't announce the hiring, something the team won't do until Fangio signs his contract. He's expected to be introduced as the club's 17th head coach on Thursday.

Fangio replaces Vance Joseph , who was fired on New Year's Eve after posting the franchise's first back-to-back losing seasons since the early 1970s.

Fangio and Elway, who turns 59 this summer, will make up one of the oldest coach-GM duos in the NFL in 2019.

Although Fangio, who turns 61 in August, has no NFL head coaching experience, he has been an assistant for 32 years in the NFL and 34 seasons overall, beginning with the Philadelphia Stars of the old USFL in 1984.

Just like former Denver defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, Fangio relates to players less than half his age and commands a deep respect in the locker room.

"You're talking about one of the best coaches in football," Bears star edge rusher Khalil Mack said recently, dubbing Fangio "the evil genius himself."

Elway said when he began his search for his fourth head coach in six seasons that he values experience but also recognizes the need to modernize the Broncos' offensive and defensive schemes to keep up with the run-pass option craze that has swept through the NFL and rendered traditional systems antiquated.

Elway didn't believe that innovation necessitated a young, up-and-coming head coach, however. So, instead of going with a fresh-faced offensive-minded novice in the mold of the Rams' Sean McVay, he zeroed in on the grizzled gridiron lifer who's more like his first head coaching hire, John Fox, or even the Chiefs' Andy Reid.

Joseph was also a first-time head coach with deep defensive roots, but he lacked the lengthy resume Fangio brings. Whereas Joseph had just one year of experience as a coordinator, Fangio brings 19 years of coordinating experience for the Panthers, Colts, Texans, 49ers and Bears.

Pats defense aims to win 'mind game' with crafty Rivers

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Patriots defensive end Trey Flowers says thinking about how to defend against the Los Angeles Chargers has kept him up at night.

"Over the bye I had a dream about not setting the edge," Flowers said this week. "I woke up and it was a nightmare."

New England's leader this season with 7½ sacks, it was Flowers who gave opposing offenses fits as part of a defense that's had its struggles but did just enough during the regular season to earn victories against some of the NFL's top quarterbacks including Andrew Luck, Patrick Mahomes and Aaron Rodgers.

The Patriots' next challenge is Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers , who will arrive in Foxborough on Sunday still looking for his first playoff victory (0-2) against New England and his first win over the Patriots with Tom Brady as the starting quarterback.

Rivers is 1-5 overall in regular-season meetings with New England, with his lone victory coming in 2008 when Brady was sidelined with a knee injury. He has yet to throw a touchdown pass against the Patriots in the postseason.

But Flowers said none of Rivers' past shortcomings are evident when he dissects the 37-year-old quarterback on film.

"He's definitely a veteran that's been very successful over his career," Flowers said. "I guess the experience just allows him to know that he can take over the offense, he can change things. It's just one of those things where you've got to be aware that he can come in and take over."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said in that way the challenge of defending Rivers is not unlike the one Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger presents. Both are big presences in the pocket, giving them the ability to spot open receivers. Their size also makes them difficult to tackle.

"Makes good decisions with the ball, uses everybody—as he always does," Belichick said.

That said, defenses have been able to get to Rivers with the pass rush this season. He was sacked 32 times during the regular season, up from 18 a year ago.

A perennial 4,000-yard passer, Rivers is among the NFL's best quarterbacks at throwing the deep ball. But according to analysis done by Football Outsiders, the Patriots finished the regular season second only to the Chicago Bears at defending passes that travelled at least 16 yards in the air .

The Patriots also enter Sunday's divisional round having forced eight turnovers in the final three games of the regular season.

Rookie cornerback J.C. Jackson was responsible for one of those turnovers, an interception against Buffalo. One of New England's latest undrafted gems, he finished with three interceptions on the season. It's helped fortify a veteran-led secondary that's made things difficult for opposing quarterbacks.

Safety Duron Harmon leads the Patriots with four interceptions. First-team All-Pro Stephon Gilmore has two picks on the season.

Jackson says he's looking forward to his first bite of playoff football.

Morris, Tatum help Celtics rout weary Pacers

Boston Celtics forward Marcus Morris (13) grabs a pass for Indiana Pacers guard Victor Oladipo (4) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019. The Celtics defeated the Pacers, 135-108.

AP

BOSTON (AP)—Marcus Morris had 22 points and eight rebounds, Jayson Tatum had 20 points and the Boston Celtics routed the Indiana Pacers 135-108 on Wednesday night.

Kyrie Irving had 12 points before sitting out the fourth quarter, and the Celtics put together their highest scoring game this season to get their fourth straight win.

Boston (25-15) also ended a three-game skid against the Pacers, who entered the night third in the Eastern Conference. The Celtics had seven players score in double figures.

Jaylen Brown scored 22 points, Gordon Hayward had 14 and Daniel Theis added 12 points and six rebounds off the bench. Terry Rozier had 12 points and five assists, and the Celtics got at least 30 assists in their fifth straight game.

Domantas Sabonis had 20 points and seven rebounds for the Pacers (27-14), who had won seven of eight. Thaddeus Young had 10 points and eight rebounds, and Victor Oladipo scored 17 points.

The Pacers never led and fell to 5-2 in the second of back-to-back games this season. They wilted in the second half after beating Cleveland 123-115 the previous night.

Boston led 68-53 at halftime after shooting 56.5 percent (26 for 46) in the first half.

Indiana used a 10-2 run early in the third and cut the margin to 79-67 on Sabonis' hook shot with 5:31 left in the period, but Boston took off again and topped 100 points before the quarter was over.

Theis converted a three-point play to start the Celtics on a 12-3 run, and Boston closed out the period with another surge, getting back-to-back 3-pointers by Rozier for a 100-74 lead with 1:27 left.

Wizards 123, 76ers 106

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 14 straight points in the fourth quarter and finished with 34 to help the Wizards beat the Philadelphia on Wednesday night for a split of the home-and-home set.

Otto Porter Jr. added 23 points, his most since returning from a quadriceps injury this month, and Trevor Ariza had 17.

Joel Embiid had 35 points and 14 rebounds for the 76ers. They committed 23 turnovers, and had a four-game winning streak end.

Jimmy Butler added 23 points, and Ben Simmons had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Philadelphia. A night after hitting more than half of its 31 attempts from beyond the arc, Philadelphia shot 8 of 27 from 3-point range, going 3 of 20 in the first three quarters.

After Washington's 26-point third-quarter lead was cut to 12 in the fourth, Beal outscored Philadelphia 14-5 to make it 116-95 with 4:22 left. Beal was 6 of 11 from 3-point range and 13 of 21 overall from the field.

The Wizards used first-half runs of 9-0 and 18-3 to build their lead as large as 20 before the break, then led by 26 after outscoring the 76ers 11-0 during a stretch of the third quarter.

Durant downplays Knicks free-agency rumors

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Durant isn't focused on rumors that he may sign with the New York Knicks next summer in free agency. He just wants to play basketball now.

Durant will hit free agency this summer, something that has sent rumors and speculation running wild around the professional basketball world.

While many teams will be interested in signing the nine-time NBA All-Star, including the Warriors, the New York Knicks keep entering the conversation.

Many have even jumped the gun and started working to persuade Durant to join the Knicks next season. Some put up a billboard next to Madison Square Garden last fall showing Durant in a Knicks jersey next to Kristaps Porzingis, too.

So, Durant was asked about potentially moving to New York next year on Tuesday ahead of their game against the Knicks in Oakland.

"I have no clue where that stuff comes from," Durant said. "I just focus on playing ball every single day. I can't control what people say about me or what they say about my future or what I should do. I just try to come to work every single day, and life will figure itself out for me."

While his answer in no way shut down a potential move to the Knicks next season, it didn't confirm any interest on Durant's part. It sounds like he simply is focused on playing basketball now.

Durant, in his third season with the Warriors, has averaged 28.5 points and 7.5 rebounds so far this season, shooting better than 50 percent from the field.

It will likely be months before anyone has a clear picture of what will go down in free agency this summer. Remember, though, Durant was asked this same question in 2017. His answer was very different.

Japan, Qatar survive opener with narrow wins

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Qatar and Japan won their opening games at the Asian Cup on Wednesday, but for both teams it's all about 2022. Quite literally for Qatar, which is hosting the next World Cup that year and scored its first goal at 8:22 p.m.—or 2022—Qatar time.

Japan's quest for a record fifth title started with a 3-2 victory over Turkmenistan, while Qatar earned a 2-0 win over Lebanon amid political tension with the host nation.

After giving up an early goal, Japan—which has a young squad that's been rebuilt with an eye on the next World Cup—scored three in quick succession to turn the game around.

Yuya Osako scored in the 56th and 60th minutes, the latter following a goalkeeping error, and Ritsu Doan made it 3-1 in the 71st.

Arslanmurat Amanov scored with a long-range shot to give Turkmenistan—the Asian Cup's second lowest-ranked team—the lead in the 26th minute. Ahmet Atayev converted a penalty kick toward the end after a foul by Japan goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda.

After losing to Belgium in the last 16 of the World Cup, Japan is trying to rebuild. Coach Hajime Moriyasu left some experienced players off the team for the Asian Cup, including midfielder Shinji Kagawa and forward Shinji Okazaki. He is instead giving more prominence to players like Gonda, whose last competitive international game was in 2013.

Japan is unbeaten in six games since the World Cup, five of those victories.

In the other Group F match, Uzbekistan beat Oman 2-1. Eldor Shomurodov scored the winning goal in the 85th minute.

Uzbekistan finished the match with 10 men after defender Egor Krimets was sent off in stoppage time for fouling an opposing player who was through on goal.

Qatar dominated possession but lacked a cutting edge against Lebanon before Iraqi-born Bassam Al-Rawi curled in a free kick in the 65th. Almoez Ali made it 2-0 from a rebound 14 minutes later.

Earlier, Lebanon thought it had scored its first major-tournament goal since 2000 through Ali Hamam at a corner, but it was ruled out for a foul away from the ball.

It was the first time in 35 years that Qatar won an Asian Cup game while not being the host.

Qatar is playing despite political tension with the host United Arab Emirates and Group E rival Saudi Arabia, which have blockaded Qatar, cutting many travel and trade links. That disrupted travel plans for the Qatari team and the head of the Asian Cup's organizing committee, who is Qatari.

Qatar leaned heavily on its lavish youth academy system to build a team and its squad is the youngest of all 24 in the Asian Cup. Naturalized foreign-born players are also key, including French-born midfielder Karim Boudiaf and Portugal-born defender Pedro Correia.

Lebanese fans made up the vast majority of the crowd for Wednesday's game and frequently jeered Qatar. Saudi Arabia stayed top of Group E ahead of Qatar thanks to its 4-0 win over North Korea on Tuesday.

AP

Japan's defender Takehiro Tomiyasu, front center, duels for the ball with Turkmenistan's midfielder Arslanmurat Amanov during the AFC Asian Cup group F soccer match at Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

India striker overtakes Messi in national team scoring

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—His name is being mentioned in the same breath as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, even though it's a name few soccer fans are familiar with.

By scoring two goals in his first match at this year's Asian Cup, India striker Sunil Chhetri displaced Messi as the second-most prolific scorer in national team soccer. He now has scored 67 times for his country, trailing only Ronaldo's 85.

"There is no comparison whatsoever between me and Lionel Messi or Ronaldo, but I am very, very honored," Chhetri said after India beat Thailand 4-1 in its opening game at the Asian Cup. "I don't take it for granted, the goals I score for my country. Every time I get an opportunity, I do my best to score."

At 34, Chhetri has established himself as the top striker in South Asia since first playing for India in 2005.

"He has worked so hard over the years and has always tried to be as good as he possibly can and inspiring his teammates," India coach Stephen Constantine told The Associated Press. "He deserves to be talked about all over Asia and elsewhere for what he has done for India."

Chhetri is a five-time Indian player of the year, but he was always looking to move abroad to further his career. It just wasn't easy.

Despite regularly being linked with European clubs, Chhetri was turned down in 2009 by lower-league English club Coventry. The following year, he joined the Kansas City Wizards but was released in 2011 without making it on the field for a Major League Soccer game. Soon after, he failed to earn a move to Glasgow to play for Scottish team Rangers.

When some teams were interested, such as London club Queens Park Rangers, Chhetri did not meet the requirements for a work permit because India was not ranked in the top 70 by FIFA.

The closest Chhetri came to playing in Europe was after a 2012 move to Sporting Lisbon, but after a handful of games for the "B" team he left Portugal and returned to India.

Now in his mid-30s and playing for Bengaluru in the Indian league, a big international move is unlikely.

But he's still scoring goals for his country.

On Sunday in Abu Dhabi, Chhetri's two goals helped India win its first Asian Cup match since 1964.

"The Asian Cup, it could not be bigger for us," Chhetri said. "We need to stay focused and keep working hard."

Next up for the Indians is a game against host United Arab Emirates before the group is completed against Bahrain. Suddenly, a place in the last 16 seems attainable.

"Sunil Chhetri is an absolute professional and has shown that time and time again, he gives everything for India every time he plays," said Constantine, an Englishman who took over as India coach in 2015. "He is a phenomenal goal scorer at this level."

Now even Messi and Ronaldo will be aware of that, too.

Spieth looks at fresh start and last year's progress

HONOLULU (AP)—Jordan Spieth showed up in Hawaii three years ago hopeful that a new year would be more of a continuation than a fresh start. Back then, he was coming off two majors, five victories, the FedEx Cup and he was No. 1 in the world.

He's in a different spot at the Sony Open.

Spieth went through an entire year without a trophy for the first time as a pro. He didn't have even a mathematical chance at the FedEx Cup because he didn't make it to the Tour Championship for the first time. Spieth starts the year at No. 17. His last victory was the British Open in 2017, the third leg of the career Grand Slam.

So is this a fresh start or a continuation?

In his case, a little of both.

"Thinking of something as a fresh start, that you can throw away some of the struggles from last season, is beneficial," he said Wednesday. "But I was doing really good work as the season went on where I was focusing my work, which was in the putting. So I don't want to necessarily wash all that away. I was doing the right stuff. It's then just a continuation of that work as I start to dial it in more and more.

"So yes and no," he concluded. "I guess mentally, yes. But physically, no."

He wasn't even sure he was coming to Oahu until a few weeks ago. Spieth wasn't eligible for the winners-only field at Kapalua. He got married over Thanksgiving weekend, which cut into a typical schedule of preparations for the new year. His expectations aren't as high as they might be.

"Just after Christmas," he said of his decision to play the Sony Open. "I had a good day practicing and said, 'All right, I'm going.' A couple of days after that it was, 'Dang it, I'm not ready.' Couple of days after that, 'Yeah.' I'm really glad I'm here, whether it goes well or not."

The Sony Open starts Thursday as the first full field of 2019, with 23 players who were at the Sentry Tournament of Champions last week. That includes Justin Thomas, who won at Waialae two years ago by opening with a 59 and breaking the PGA Tour's record for 72 holes with a 253 total.

Patrick Reed also is in the field, the first time Reed and Spieth have been in the same tournament since the Ryder Cup, remembered as much for the European victory as Reed blaming Spieth for them not playing together in France. Spieth and Thomas went 3-1 as partners, while Reed and Tiger Woods went 0-2.

"I was a bit surprised," Spieth said about Reed's post-Ryder Cup comments. "It didn't bother me. I was just like, 'Whoa.' There was nothing lead up to that ... nothing told me that was going to happen."

He doesn't expect any awkward moments, even if they're paired with each other at some point. Reed generally gets along well with everyone inside the ropes, though he tends to practice by himself.

ROAD

From Page 32

the 2.5K riun, 15K bike, and 1.5K run.

Up next for TRAC is the IT&E 4th Saipan Aquathlon and 1K Run Race that will hit the road on Feb. 2. The two races will also take place at Paupau Beach with the aquathlon covering a distance of 2.5K each in the run leg and 1K in the swim.

For the last part of the series, which is also sponsored by IT&E, TRAC will have the Sprint & Olympic Distance Triathlon on March 16 at Paupau Beach. The sprint race will have participants doing the 700m swim, 20K bike, and 5K run course, while the Olympic distance will feature a 1.5K swim, 50K bike, and 10K run.

To register or for more information, contact TRAC official Manny Sitchon at 483-0094 or send email to swimbikerun.saipan@gmail.com.

80 sign up for Tagaman

Meanwhile, Tagaman's entries increased from 15 last month to 80 as of yesterday.

In the male division, 57 have registered, while the women's field has drawn 22 so far, and the rest are entered in the team event.

Event organizers are hoping to reach past the century mark at the end of this month, as they are receiving more inquiries from interested individuals, including triathletes from Korea, Japan, Guam, and the Philippines.

LEE

From Page 32

player Yeon Woo Ku of South Korea yesterday for a slot in the 64-player field. The No. 6 Ku, who arranged a showdown against the Commonwealth player after eliminating Japan's Koharu Nimii, 6-1, 6-4, went on to beat Lee, 6-1, 6-0, to enter the main draw.

Lee's first tournament for 2019 is a Grade 1 event, which awards as much as 280 ITF Juniors ranking points in singles and 210 in doubles. Grade 1 is the fourth highest in the level of events under the ITF Juniors Circuit with the Grand Slam/Youth Olympics on top of the list, giving out 1,000 and 750 points to the champions. At No. 2 is the Junior Masters and followed by Grade A, Grade 1/B1, Grade 2/B2, Grade 3/B3, Grade 4/B4, and Grade 5.

The 17-year-old Lee ruled a couple of Grade 4 and 5 competitions and made it to the finals of a B2 event once when she saw action in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships in Fiji last year.

She finished the 2018 season ranked No. 175 in the world (combined singles and doubles) and was busy in the last two months of the year after playing two tournaments each in Mexico and Florida. From the U.S. she headed to her father's home country—South Korea—and then returned to Fiji at the International Tennis Federation/Oceania Tennis Federation regional training facility before traveling to Australia last Sunday.

In the Land Down Under, Lee had her second appearance in the AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International. Last year, she also joined the qualifier of the Grade 1 tournament and was beaten in first round by Japan's Ayumi Miyamoto, 6-3, 6-1. The CNMI bet may stay in Australia, as she earlier planned to join the qualifying tournament for the 2019 Australian Open (Junior). She could also make it to the main draw of the AGL event if she gets a lucky loser slot or players back out. The main draw will be posted in the ITF Juniors website today, while Lee has yet to confirm if she will push through with her plans of joining the Aussie Open qualifier. As of yesterday, Lee is listed on the qualifier roster, joining 25 other players.

2 NMI

From Page 32

program through the Asian Football Confederation," Ross added.

Villaflor and Ruselle were reunited with Don Cabrera, Davy Laxa, Jeralyn Castillo, Mia Carreon, Katherine Magat, Floyd Muna, Merrick Toves, Sebastien Manabat, and Taka Borja last Tuesday and all participated in the classroom and practical sessions of Day 1 of the development course. The practical part of the course covers game style and situation training, while for the classroom sessions, instructors and participants are discussing tactical foul, penalty incident, offside, challenge, hand ball, teamwork, and game management,

Joining Villaflor and Ruselle in assisting the visiting instructors are Guam's James Oh and Shawn Spindel, while Guam Football Association also has 22 referees attending the four-day course.

GFA, being the host federation, made two teams, including its men's national squad, available for the practical sessions. Japanese Sachiko Yamagishi and Tadashi Hase are the course's instructor and assistant instructor, respectively. Yamagishi was a referee at the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada and a five-time AFC Referee of the Year awardee, while Hase officiates games in the J2 League.

Djokovic, Halep top seeds at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Top-ranked Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep, as expected, were given the No. 1 seedings on Thursday when the Australian Open announced its singles seedings list.

Defending champion Roger Federer is seeded No. 3 after Rafael Nadal, while women's defending singles champion Caroline Wozniacki, who beat Halep in last year's final at Melbourne Park, is No. 3 behind second-seeded and 2016 champion Angelique Kerber.

Serena Williams, who won the Australian Open in 2017 while pregnant with daughter Alexis Olympia, returns as the 16th-seeded player after missing last year's tournament.

Fifth-ranked Juan Martin del Potro will miss the Australian Open while he recovers from a fractured right kneecap.

Halep played at the Sydney International and was defeated by Ashleigh Barty in the second round, 6-4, 6-4.

It was Halep's first match since October after a lengthy layoff due to a herniated disc in her back. Halep won last year's French Open and lost to Caroline Wozniacki in the Australian Open final.

"I think it was a great match after almost four months since I played one full match, the U.S. Open," Halep said. "I think I played a good level of tennis. She played really well. Her slice was great today, so she deserved to win this match.

"But also I was very close to win. I had so many chances to break her and to take advantage, but I couldn't."

Halep said she was pain-free but would wait to see how she pulls up on Thursday before declaring that she is over the back injury.

"No pain at all. I'm happy about that. It's a great sign," she said. "I will recover now, and I will see how I wake up tomorrow morning."

Barty served five aces, no double-faults and broke Halep three times to reverse two previous losses to Halep last August.

"I finally learned my lesson," Barty said. "She gave me a belting in Montreal. I learned a little bit more in Cincinnati, but today I knuckled down and really thought about it and really gave myself a chance.

"The biggest thing, I believed that I could I win. We're both out here on the same court. Just very happy I was able to come out and execute."

Foles knows his time in Philly is likely nearing an end

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune Sports

Morris, Tatum help Celtics rout weary Pacers

PAGE 29

2 NMI referees assist in EAFF course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two members of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association referees pool are also in Guam to provide assistance to instructors and participants in the ongoing East Asian Football Federation Referee Development Course.

NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said that Cristy Villaflor and Ruselle Zapanta left Saipan last Monday to get ready for the course where nine young referees from the island are also enrolled.

"We actually have 11 referees in Guam for the referee course. Ruselle and Christy left a day ahead (of the big group), as they have to meet with two Japanese instructors. Ruselle and Christy and two others from Guam will assist as referee instructors. Thus this course is even better because it will provide high level training for both our referees and instructors," the NMIFA official said.

"This course is actually a program under EAFF and I believe that FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) has been providing funding for the

See 2 NMI on Page 31

JILL ESPIRITU/GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Participants in the East Asian Football Federation Referee Development Course pose for a group photo before starting their practical session last Tuesday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

Lee starts season with win in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee kicked off the season on a winning note after prevailing in the qualifier of the 2019 AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International last Wednesday in Victoria, Australia.

Lee swept Australia's Maggie Pierce, 6-3, 6-2, in the opening round of the qualifying tournament at the Traralgon Tennis Association, moving one victory away from clinching a spot in the singles main draw. The No. 11 Lee was then paired against fellow seeded

See LEE on Page 31

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee is in Australia and played in the qualifying tournament of the 2019 AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International.

Road to Tagaman Race Series kicks off Jan. 19

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Triathlon Association of the CNMI will hold the Road to Tagaman Race Series, starting on Jan. 19 to drum up interest and prepare local bikers for Tagaman Triathlon that will take place on March 30.

The first part of the three-leg event will be the IT&E 3rd Saipan Duathlon and Sprint Triathlon that will start and end at Paupau Beach. For the duathlon, there will be two courses with the long one featuring a 5-kilometer run, 20K bike, and 2.5K run. For the short course, participants must complete

See ROAD on Page 31

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimmers head out of the water at Kilili Beach and proceed to the swim-bike transition area during last year's Tagaman Triathlon.